

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**

OF ADVENTISM

*A Hundredfold  
Now*

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*Fulfilling His  
Purpose*

*p. 11*



## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

# Laboring to Give Birth

**A**sk now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale” (Jeremiah 30:6)?

“Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. . . . She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne” (Revelation 12:2, 5).

“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel. . . . To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in

all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:21-23, 27, 28).

All four of these diverse passages of scripture are talking about the same subject. Before anyone can be taken out of this world to live forever in heaven, all their sins must be forgiven and blotted out. And by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, a new heart and life must also be created within, their character a reflection of the character of Jesus Christ. Have you been born again?

“The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life. . . . He bids us by faith in Him attain to the glory of the character of God.” *The Faith I Live By*, 44.

“A well-balanced character is formed by single acts well performed. One defect, cultivated instead of being overcome, makes the man imperfect, and closes against him the gate of the Holy City. . . . In all the redeemed host not one defect will be seen.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 17, 1901. **LM**

HISTORIC

# LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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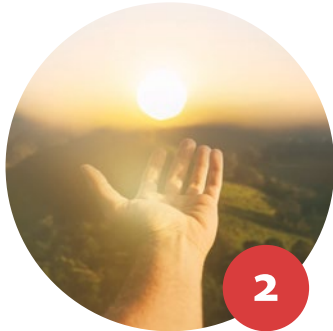
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LANDMARKS is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God’s true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God’s remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This magazine is designed to help believers to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days. It is the goal of LANDMARKS’ editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine’s editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

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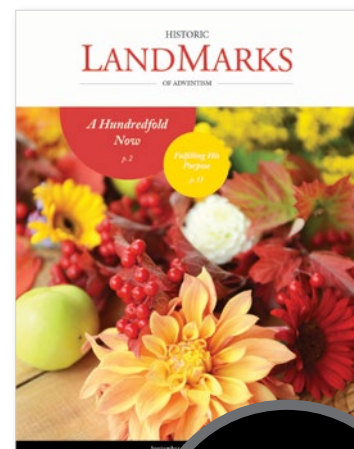
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# *A Hundredfold Now*

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By Dr. Sudhir Pandit

There are in the Scriptures thoughts and claims of such a startling nature as to occasionally cause one to do a double take. One such thought is found in the words of Jesus in Mark 10:29, 30: “And Jesus answered and said, ‘Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, but he shall receive *an hundredfold now in this time*, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.’”

Clearly, Jesus’ intention here was for us to know that no one making a sacrifice for His sake would go unrewarded. We can understand to a degree that a believer will be compensated for the loss of his family in this life by joining a larger family of faith. We can even understand the promise of persecutions because the Bible is consistent in teaching that heaven can be gained only through much tribulation. (See Acts 14:22; 2, Timothy 3:12; Matthew 24:21.) But what did Jesus mean by declaring “he shall receive an hundredfold *now in this time*”? What measure was Jesus using? What currency was He alluding to?



When we consider the lives of the apostles, we realize that every one of them died a martyr's death – except for John, who barely escaped death being deep fried in a pot of boiling oil. So where was the promise of “an hundredfold” for them? But we know that Jesus never lies. This means, therefore, that each of the apostles did indeed receive “an hundredfold” in this life even though to human vision they suffered the loss of all things, including their very lives. This is of profound interest to us living in the last days because the promise of Jesus clearly embraces all His followers to the end of time even as the crisis of the ages steals relentlessly upon us with its specter of suffering and persecution.

Jesus spoke the promise of the “hundredfold” in the context of losing all things for His sake. Does this suggest that only certain believers may be entitled to the promise, while others may not? The answer is an unequivocal No. All believers, regardless of their ultimate earthly fate, may receive the “hundredfold” in this life by surrendering all by a covenant of sacrifice: “Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice” (Psalm 50:5). Every believer who has ever lived has had in his or her grasp the “hundredfold” promise in this life, because God credits us for the intents of our hearts more than for what is observable to human sight. This great promise is separate from and in addition to eternal life “in the world to come.” Thus, even though not all believers are called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice of martyrdom, all can qualify for the “hundredfold” blessing here and now by being willing to stand unyieldingly for the truth despite the cost.

To grasp the concept of the “hundredfold” we must first understand the economic principles of heaven. In the cashless economy in heaven there is no trading or bartering. All things pertaining to life and well-being are freely available to the inhabitants of that won-



*In  
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heaven.*

derful world. The river of life proceeding from the throne of God and the tree of life represent the inexhaustible supply of all things needed for the perpetuation of life and happiness. No one will ever experience scarcity or want in the great hereafter. It is in this world alone that economies are driven by the forces affecting supply and demand. The reason that precious metals are precious and gems are so expensive is that they are so rare. If rubies and diamonds were as plentiful as pebbles on the seashore, who would try to gain a monopoly on selling them? They would quite literally be “dirt cheap!” It is so in heaven. Nothing of a material nature possesses any intrinsic value because God can call into existence a planet of gold as easily as one of rock and dirt.

What then is of value in the heavenly economy? It is living, intelligent beings endowed with free wills, able to choose their own destinies. In making the will sacrosanct, God has effectively tied His own hands by a policy of strict non-interference, even though the choice may go against Him. He has limited Himself to entreating and reasoning to prompt a response. The reason for this is as pro-

found as it is true. As a God of infinite love, the only option that could possibly harmonize with His character was that of freedom of choice. Since love begets love, and forced love is no love at all, His intent was to demonstrate His love in such a way as to evoke a love response from His creatures. This unforced, voluntary response was of such major importance to Him that He was willing to jeopardize heaven for it. For true love, by its very nature, carries with it the unavoidable risk of rejection. The fact that God had in truth given intelligent beings the ability to reject Him was proven beyond the shadow of a doubt when Lucifer chose the path of rebellion and became His staunch enemy as Satan.

In certain ways the sin experiment, its dire results notwithstanding, was necessary to definitively vindicate the Father's character, for if rebellion had never arisen, there would always have remained a lingering question as to how free intelligent beings really are. Now that question is settled forever.

Thus, as free moral agents, intelligent beings, by choosing to reciprocate the love of the Father, afford Him that which He prizes most – sincere,

“  
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heartfelt thankfulness and gratitude manifested in worshipful adoration, praise, and obedience. In the heavenly scales, the value of such a response from His creatures far outweighs the value with which He regards the entire inanimate universe. This is what He really wanted even during the Jewish era with all its bloodletting in the animal sacrifices. Unfortunately, the Jewish church misunderstood and misconstrued the rites and ceremonies by placing much emphasis on that which was truly abhorrent to the Father, while losing sight of the incredible truth they represented – the coming of the great Deliverer.

And oh, the price the Father paid that we might offer Him the genuine love He craves! We will never in eternity fully comprehend the price of our salvation, for in giving Jesus to us, the Father emptied heaven of all that was lovely and precious. If intelligent beings represent the riches of heaven, how much greater would be the worth of the Son of God, the highest of all the intelligences of the universe! The Spirit of Prophecy describes Jesus as the “outshining of the Father’s glory.” (See *Education*, 131, 132.) Human language cannot express the tender ties that bind the Father’s heart with that of His Son. In a real sense, the Father had to rip His own heart out and hand it to the human race in one unfathomable gift. Is it any wonder He hesitated at the fall of Adam and Eve to implement the plan of salvation? Three times Jesus went before Him in the “counsel of peace” to volunteer to die for the guilty race before the Father finally consented to it. (See *Christ Triumphant*, 30 and *Early Writings*, 126.) The hesitation was not due to a lack of love for lost man, but because the cost to Himself was going to be so supremely daunting. But love won the day, while the immutability of His law cancelled all other options. Note the following inspired words with respect to the Father’s mind in consenting to send His Son on the rescue mission:

“When God gave His Son to our world, He endowed human beings with imperishable riches—riches compared with which the treasured wealth of men since the world began is nothingness. Christ came to the earth and stood before the children of men with the hoarded love of eternity, and this is the treasure that, through our connection with Him, we are to receive, to reveal, and to impart.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 37. The hoarded love of eternity! How can we understand this mind-blowing concept?

Notice also in the next quote the infinite love of the Father and the principle of free choice:

“It is God’s will that all shall be saved, that not one shall perish; but He does not compel obedience. He leaves all free to say whether or not they will take advantage of His offer of mercy. In giving Jesus, He poured out all heaven in one gift, making it possible for man to come into possession of eternal riches.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 345. All heaven in one gift! Absolutely unbelievable, amazing love!

Unquestionably, the driving force behind the rescue effort was love of such a degree as to stagger the human mind. The Scriptures affirm the thought: “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3).

In the parable of the pearl of great price, we see Jesus portrayed as a jewel of incredible value: “The blessings of redeeming love our Saviour compared to a precious pearl. He illustrated His lesson by the parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls ‘who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it’ (Matthew 13:46). Christ Himself is the pearl of great price. In Him is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead. . . . All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 115.

These revelations help us understand the promise of “an hundredfold” benefit now. It is not just for some special class of believers, but for all who will unreservedly accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. So, if Jesus is the riches of heaven poured out in one great gift to humanity – the treasure hid in the field, the pearl of great price, it is He alone who constitutes the “hundredfold” blessing to the believer. Every other benefit is simply a tiny bonus.

But the lesson goes deeper, because in order to obtain the treasure in the field or the pearl of great price, the farmer and merchantman had to “sell all that (they) had.” Short of this, the desired articles would have been out of reach. This teaches the great lesson that salvation can only be received through a complete surrender of the soul to Jesus – a total renunciation of the things of this life. A great exchange must take place with the believer giving up all to receive the priceless gift of all-in-all in Jesus. “But what do we give up, when we give all? A sin-polluted heart, for Jesus to purify, to cleanse by His own blood, and to save by His matchless love. And yet men think it hard to give up all!” *Steps to Christ*, 46.

In promising a mere “hundredfold” (10,000%), Jesus was in fact stating a very conservative return on investment in human terms. For who can estimate the value of the Being around whom all heaven revolved? Jesus was the main attraction of heaven. Without Him heaven would not be heaven. Note the words of inspiration: “The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him as His right. This was no robbery of God.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 247. And so in *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 345, previously quoted, we read again, “In giving Jesus, He (God) poured out all heaven in one gift . . . .”



Human minds cannot conceive such a fantastic thought, much less can human tongues express it. Who can compute the price of such a gift? We stand speechless, our heads shaking in disbelief, as we try to grasp the thought, but this is what we receive when we accept Jesus into our lives!

The thief on the cross represents those who receive salvation in the last moments of life – a death-bed conversion, as it were. It is only as we comprehend the supreme value of Jesus as our personal Saviour that we can understand how he received the “hundredfold” promise before he died. Notice what he experienced in the dialogue with Jesus: “As Christ spoke the words of promise, the dark cloud that seemed to enshroud the cross was pierced with a bright and living light. To the penitent thief came the perfect peace of acceptance with God. Christ in His humiliation was glorified. He who in all other eyes appeared to be conquered was a conqueror. He was acknowledged as the Sin-bearer.” *The Signs of the Times*, Oct. 25, 1905.

In acknowledging Jesus as Lord, the thief received the invaluable gift of peace and the assurance of heaven. He was face to face with eternity, but that did not matter. He was ready to die. The world held no attraction for him any-

more. He had the Pearl of incalculable worth in his grasp – the “hundredfold” promise “now,” and that was enough. In his next conscious moment, he will hear the call to “awake” and rise to eternal life with Him whose crown of thorns was now exchanged for a diadem of indescribable glory.

Thus it is that the earthly existence of a Christian, whether short or extended, is measured not so much by the quantity of earthly benefits, as by the inestimable quality of peace and joy in Christ that nothing can destroy. This is the “hundredfold” promise that God lavishes on all His true children “now.” We cannot thank and praise Him enough!

[All emphasis supplied.] All scriptures are taken from the King James Version. **LM**

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# *To Know and To Love Jesus*

By Michael C. Wells



**M**any of us today claim the name of Jesus Christ and proclaim that we know Him personally. We become “Christians,” which means that we are followers of Christ. But are we really following Jesus? Do we truly know Him intimately, or do we just have a passive love for Him?

John writes, “We love Him, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Our love for Him must come from our knowledge of Jesus if we are to love Him. We declare our love for the Father and Jesus because of what They have done for us. “For God so loved the world that He

gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God’s love is one of infinite love and sacrifice. However, the love we return is initially a passive love, one brought on by the action of another. If it remains passive, it runs the danger of growing stagnant or even fading.

If we are to keep this love alive and growing, we must change it into an active love. An active love is one that is based on interaction and intimacy with each other. We can think of it in terms of a marriage, where both parties are

daily interacting with one another and getting to know each other’s habits and growing together to become one person with two identities. But what happens if we start to become distant from one another? Does the love grow or become passive? We may have genuinely been attracted to the other person. We may have loved their company and desired to be with them early on, but as life goes on, something changes, and we do not have the same relationship as before.

If this can happen with a man and woman, it can also happen between man and God. In every relationship



there is usually one person constantly reaching out and trying to make the relationship better. This is the way it is with Jesus. He is always reaching out to us to bring us closer to Him. Yet, unless we reach out to Him, our “marriage” to Jesus will become one sided. One of my favorite scriptures is Ephesians 5:25, 26: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”

This scripture shows the relationship that must exist between God and man, “just as Christ loved the church [or us].” What is that love? It is an intimate, interactive, daily interchange between us and God. If we love God, we will want to know him better than anyone else on this earth. So back to the question, do we truly know Jesus? We can’t just love Him so we can have eternal life, or out of fear of the retribution we face because of our sins. We must love Jesus because of who He is and the love that He has for us. Let’s study a little bit about the One we say we love. There is so much about Jesus in the Bible, we can just briefly look at an overview of it, but that is a good place to start.

Jesus wants to know us, too, so He starts off by reminding us to find our first love again. “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love” (Revelation 2:4).

Who is this Jesus with whom we say we want to be associated? “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). According to Isaiah, Jesus was called our “Mighty God, Everlasting Father.” He was not some second-rate person of the Godhead. No, He was the embodiment of the Godhead with full authority. When He came to this earth to lay down His life for us, the government of God came



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with Him. His gift was so great that heaven was imperiled because of His sacrifice. He became human to show how humanity can be joined with divinity. He was the Majesty of heaven, the Commander-in-Chief of the armies of heaven, the Prince of heaven who brings peace to everyone who will come to Him. He is the gospel embodied.

“The value of a gift is proportionate to its adaptability to the needs of perishing souls. When Christ gave Himself, He opened up a spiritual fountain of divine influence, that by faith in Him, man might partake of the divine nature. In Christ is gathered all the glory of the Father. In Him is all the fullness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God are expressed in His character. Every page of the New Testament Scriptures shines with His light. Every text is a diamond, touched and irradiated by the divine rays. The Gospel is Christ unfolded, and Christ is the Gospel embodied. We are not to worship the Gospel, but Christ, the Lord of the Gospel. The Gospel is glorious because it is made up of Christ’s righteousness.

Our Saviour is a perfect representation of God on the one hand, and a perfect representation of humanity on the other. Thus He has combined divinity and humanity.” *The Signs of the Times*, November 24, 1898.

Jesus was not only our sacrifice, but our Counselor, Instructor and Comforter. As we spend time with Him, He is there to guide and teach us by His example, to comfort us in trials and to rejoice with us in triumph. He can do this because He is also the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. (See Revelation 22:13.) He knows all about us, so He, and only He, is qualified to teach us infinite love. He knows the end from the beginning, so He is ready to guide us along our journey.

“I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts” (Revelation 21:6, *last part*). To receive this life-saving water, we must drink of it. Jesus told the woman at the well that the water He gives is a fountain of water. “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall

“  
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give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life’ (John 4:13, 14). This fountain of water springing up is the ever-increasing love for Him that grows within us. As we learn of Him, the knowledge will create a deeper desire for Him. Jesus is the living water of life. He does not just give us a drink from a river or a fountain to quench our thirst, but quenches it with every moment we spend learning of Him.

Jesus also calls Himself the “bread of life.” John 6:35 says, “And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” And in John 7:38 He says, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Each day we must eat food to sustain our lives. So it is with our spiritual lives as well. The love that we feel toward Jesus grows as we make Him part of our daily walk. We must “eat” the word of God. Just as food digests to nourish our bodies, our daily study of God’s word is digested into our minds and hearts. By making the word of God part of our daily routine, we learn not only what we believe in, but also in Whom we believe.

“Oh, it makes every difference with those who study the Scriptures as to what and how they shall understand the word, whether they eat it or not. The word of God, if eaten, will give spiritual sinew and muscle. Those who eat and digest this word will practice it.” *The Review and Herald*, August 13, 1959.

“We should eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God; that is, carefully study the Word, eat it, digest it, make it a part of our being. We are to live the Word, not keep it apart from our lives. The character of Christ is to be our character. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our hearts. Here is our only safety. Nothing can separate a living Christian from God.” *Ibid.*, November 27, 1900.

We can have confidence in Jesus. David and Moses proclaimed Him to be the Rock of salvation and righteousness. David said, “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Psalm 18:2). And Moses said, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Jesus said that we must build our relations with Him to have a strong foundation. He is the Rock that cannot be moved. Our love for Jesus will become as immovable as a rock when He is at the center of our lives. “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock” (Luke 6:46–48). When we know Jesus and build on His word, following all that He says, we become grounded in His love.

Have you ever seen the love that a dog gives his master? It is unconditional. Even when the master does not give the dog everything it wants, that dog will still look at his master with love and affection. This is because to the dog his master is the center of its life. The master becomes the dog’s trainer, feeder, and protector. The dog loves his master because it knows that the master is looking out for it.

Jesus is called our Mediator and Advocate. He is there to protect us, stand up for us, feed us, and give us the things that are good for us. By loving and obeying the Master we can have confidence, knowing Jesus has only our good in mind. A human may mistreat his dog, but Jesus never does anything that will harm us. We may be called on to sacrifice for Him, yet that sacrifice is for our good. In return, Jesus promises to be our Advocate to the Father. Even though our sins may be many, Jesus will only present His righteousness before the Father in our behalf.



“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

Jesus is called the Good Shepherd who gently moves His sheep on the path they should follow. If they listen to His voice, they will never get lost. As they fix their eyes on Him, He guides them to the green pastures of life in Him. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own” (John 10:11, 14). Jesus laid down His life for us and paid an extremely high price, one that we cannot even fathom. It will be a subject we will contemplate for eternity.

Those who know Jesus will hear His voice as He daily leads them. His sheep will not follow another voice. They will hear the melody of His sweet speech and be drawn closer and closer to Him. There will be other voices that will try to wile them away from their true Beloved, but God’s people will always have their eyes and ears fixed on the Good Shepherd. By spending time to get to know Jesus, they will not be enticed to follow a different love. True Christians will reject the enticements of the world that separate them from Jesus.

In Jesus is the truth. He proclaimed it of Himself. “Jesus said to him [Thomas], ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’” (John 14:6). Jesus not only gives us life, but shows us the way to live it. He imparts to us the truth that only He can give. He not only frees us from sin, but also deception. “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free’” (John 8:31, 32). However, notice the condition. We must abide in His word, or another way



*As  
husband  
and wife can  
grow apart, so can  
man and God.*

of saying it is to obey His commandments. We cannot abide in Jesus if we break His law.

The law of God shows us His love for mankind. It is the very foundation of that love. Without it, we could have no confidence in Jesus. The law sets forth the way for us to love Jesus, and by obeying it, we show our love for Him. “For Christ is the end [or fullness] of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (Romans 10:4). We obtain the perfect gift of grace that is given freely to all, but our obedience to God’s law shows the love we feel for Jesus. “I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” (Galatians 2:21). “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law” (Romans 3:31).

Jesus also knows what we are going through. He is our High Priest in heaven. His angels are always busy sending their reports to Him. He sympathizes with us as we go through each trial, each struggle, and each temptation. He understands because He also went through these same struggles while on earth. Jesus was a boy like any other boy, except His mind was fixed on the workings of God. As He grew, He was harassed

and teased like many other children. When He reached adulthood, He was taunted because of His birth, but Jesus never let the evil gossip distract Him from His mission to do His Father’s work. Through each struggle, He prayed to His Father in heaven and the Holy Spirit was sent to comfort Him. Because of this faithfulness, He fulfilled His mission on earth so that He could sit at the right hand of God the Father and be our High Priest to minister for us. “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). There is not one temptation that we go through that He cannot understand. He knows our hereditary tendencies that Satan uses against us. Jesus is faithful, and as our High Priest and Elder Brother, He is ready to help us at a moment’s notice. He desires for us to pray to Him for help so He may send the Holy Spirit to comfort us.

“Jesus says, ‘Take My yoke upon you’ (Matthew 11:29, *first part*). If we were bearing His yoke, we would not be wearing yokes of our own manufacturing. We would not be impatient, full of fault-finding, and hatred toward one another. If we wear the yoke of



Christ, we will be patient, loving, and unvengeful under injury; for we shall be learning of Him who is meek and lowly of heart. If we are indeed the followers of Christ, we shall be called upon to bear reproach, but if we are not understood, if we are falsely accused, we must not be discouraged, but remember that our Lord suffered mockery and scorn, and even the chief priests and rulers hedged up His way, and falsely accused Him of evil. Whatever may befall us, we should look to Jesus, knowing that He is our best Friend, or Elder Brother.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 26, 1891.

Many times, we might feel discouraged because of others or because we see our own faults, but Jesus does not want us to feel that way. In Matthew 11:28, 29, He says, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” He enjoins us to take upon ourselves His part of the yoke. It is much lighter and gives comfort when in despair. When we follow His example and become meek and humble, He takes on our troubles and bears them for us. By being yoked up with Jesus, He promises to lighten our load. He will help us bear the burden as we work with Him.

When thinking about this yoke, we might contemplate Jesus’ willingness to get in the yoke with us. He is willing to take on the struggle that we are dealing with. If we are to be like Jesus, how much more should we help others in their time of need? When we realize that we are no better than the poorest, most destitute

person on the earth, it is then that we can love others better than ourselves. Jesus loves all these people. If we are following in His footsteps, if we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, our care and understanding will go before us to gently help them to find the hope we have in Jesus.

Isaiah 53:3 states of Jesus:

“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” Jesus has been despised by the world because they did not know Him. They never took the time to get to know the

God they say they follow. He has been rejected by the majority of mankind, yet He still loves them all. He is not a man of sorrows because He was tortured and crucified, but because His people, whom He created, do not reciprocate the love He has for them.

Many may have experienced loving someone who did not return that love. Jesus experiences this every day. He gave all He could to make a way for us to be with Him, yet many times, we “esteem Him not.” Many say, “I love Jesus and obey Him in all things.” Yet as we look deeper into the love of Jesus, His goodness, His lovingkindness, we will see that we are lacking. We can always do better, always do more, and always have more love for His people, those who profess Him and even those who do not.

Jesus told the chief priest of Israel that He is the great “I AM” (John 8:58). This was significant because He was proclaiming to be the God that brought them out of Egypt and the One who gave Moses the ten commandments on

Mt. Sinai. But He is also called by other names. “And the Lord passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth’” (Exodus 34:6). Jesus is also identified by John as the Creator. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:1-3).

Jesus is the fullness of goodness and longsuffering. He is always gracious and merciful. We should thank Him daily for His mercy and longsuffering with us. We are erring humans that need His divine Holy Spirit to change us. If we are going to be like Jesus, and He says we must become like Him and have His mind and His character, then we must learn more about Him. We must make Him part of our diet. We must feast on every word that proceeds from His mouth, and we must pray without ceasing that He will change us into His perfect image.

The love of Jesus is something we can never repay. He sacrificed His life in heaven as well as His life on earth so that we could know Him better. He poured Himself out for mankind so that we might see His goodness. His love is a perfect love, and if we behold Him daily and fervently pray for His Holy Spirit, He has promised to show Himself to us and perfect our character to be like His. To know and to love Jesus is to have confidence in Whom we have believed. So do not be discouraged, for we have a great and powerful God that is reaching out to each of us today. All we have to do is to accept the offer and daily walk with Him.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

*Mike Wells* is director of *Anointing Oil Ministries*.

“  
*We love Him, because  
He first loved us.*

*1 John 4:19*

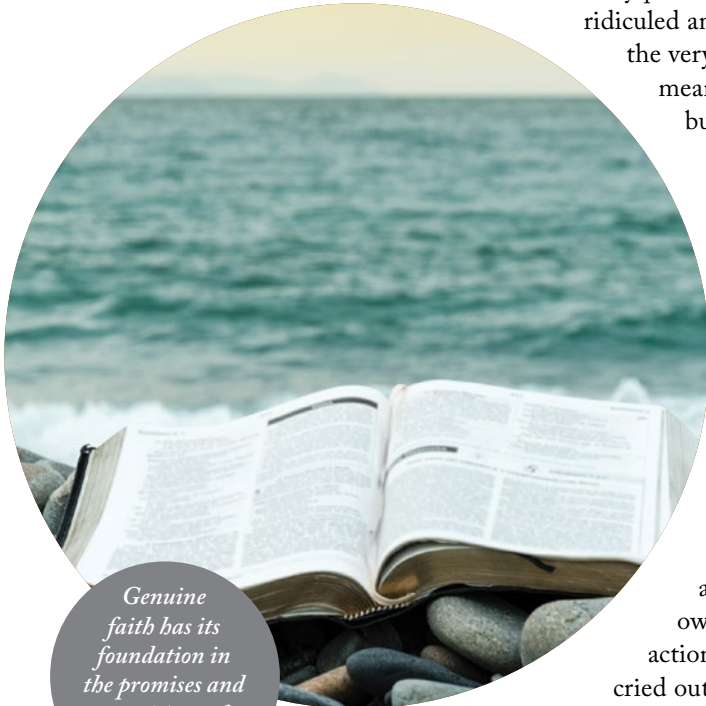
# *Fulfilling His Purpose*

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By Damien Jenkins

**A** long time ago in the land of the Philistines, there was a feast. Many people from all the regions of the Philistines had come to this feast to honor their god Dagon in his temple because he had protected them from and defeated their enemy, Samson (Judges 16:23). The temple was filled with men and women, all the “lords of the Philistines.”

Chosen by God for the purpose of delivering His people, Samson was meant to be raised as a Nazarite, consecrated and set apart. He had been born into the right family, raised in the right way, given the right diet and the right background – everything he needed to fulfill God’s purpose for his life, the same as we as Seventh-day Adventists have been called to be and do. And yet, he chose to please himself. We can see the purpose, the mission, the cause and calling of God for this deliverer of Israel. And we can see how he chose instead to do his own will. We also see that even in his attempts to please himself, God’s purpose through him would still be carried out, but it cost Samson everything.



*Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of Scriptures.*

Defeated by his insistence to do his own will rather than God's, Samson finds himself blind, with his hair shorn and absolutely powerless, bound, ridiculed and abused by the very people he was meant to conquer, but had been determined to be a part of through marriage. He was overwhelmed by the humiliation and horror of his current situation brought about by his own choices and actions. His heart cried out in sorrow because his eyes could not, and in that cry he asked the very question that many of us may have asked or are asking, "Lord, how did I get here?"

Twenty years had passed since Samson married the young woman of Timnah and he had killed 1,000 Philistines. He had judged Israel during that time in relative peace. He was now a grown man, but the choices of his youth had left a telling mark on his life as he continued to seek to please himself.

In Judges 16:1 the Bible says, "Now Samson went to Gaza ..." Did he go to investigate and determine the Philistines' weaknesses and how they could be brought down so that Israel could finally be free from their enemy? No, he went to Gaza "and saw a harlot and went in to her."

We read in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 564: "After his victory the Israelites made Samson judge, and he ruled Israel for twenty years. But one wrong step prepares the way for another. Samson had transgressed the command of God by taking a wife from the Philistines, and again he ventured

among them – now his deadly enemies – in the indulgence of unlawful passion. Trusting to his great strength, which had inspired the Philistines with such terror, he went boldly to Gaza, to visit a harlot of that place." We also read in *The Desire of Ages*, 126: "Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. Presumption also claims those promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of Scriptures."

Presumption is living your life the way you choose to, assuming that you will be okay until you decide when to change. Samson was presumptuous, like many young people are today. Many Adventists believe they will make changes in their lives when they see the Sunday law being passed, delaying their commitment to their own loss.

Samson went to Gaza to commit fornication with a harlot. Fornication is the act of being physically intimate with someone who is not your husband or wife. Paul said, "Now the body is not for sexual immorality [fornication] but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For 'the two,' He says, 'shall become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. ... Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality [fornication] sins against his own body. Or do you not know that



your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:13–20).

Fornication cheapens and objectifies the body, degrades you in the mind of the other person and sends a message that you have little self-value and are not worth committing to. Remember, however, that you have been bought with an extremely high price and your body belongs to God.

"When the Gazites were told, 'Samson has come here!' they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, 'In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him'" (Judges 16:2). The Philistines had been exposed to the Israelite culture and they knew that, as an Israelite, what Samson was doing was wrong. This gave them an opportunity to lay a trap for him by means of which he could have perished that day. However, "At midnight Samson was aroused. The accusing voice of conscience filled him with remorse, as he remembered that he had broken his vow as a Nazarite. But notwithstanding his sin, God's mercy had not forsaken him. His prodigious strength again served to deliver him. Going to the city gate, he wrenched it from its place and carried it, with its posts and bars, to the top of a hill on the way to Hebron." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 565.

Samson's narrow escape did not cause him to surrender his ungodly, pleasure-seeking ways. "Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah" (Judges 16:4). We are reminded in Ecclesiastes 8:11, "Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

"But even this narrow escape did not stay his evil course. He did not again



*Presumption is living your life the way you choose, assuming that you will be okay until you decide when to change.*

venture among the Philistines, but he continued to seek those sensuous pleasures that were luring him to ruin. 'He loved a woman in the valley of Sorek,' not far from his own birthplace. Her name was Delilah, 'the consumer.' The vale of Sorek was celebrated for its vineyards; these also had a temptation for the wavering Nazarite, who had already indulged in the use of wine, thus breaking another tie that bound him to purity and to God. The Philistines kept a vigilant watch over the movements of their enemy, and when he degraded himself by this new attachment, they determined, through Delilah, to accomplish his ruin." *Ibid.*, 565.

How could Samson keep breaking the ties that bound him to God over and over again? But maybe an equally important question to ask is, how does this keep happening to us, over and over again?

The Philistines offered Delilah a great deal of wealth to find out how they might overcome Samson. With flattery and feigned caring, Delilah sought to ingratiate herself with Samson until finally she says in Judges 16:6, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." Though his

actions may cause us to think that Samson must have been dull, he did in fact see through Delilah's attempt to discover the secret of his strength. He determined to have some fun with her and the Philistines.

Beginning in Judges 16:7–16, we read of Delilah's efforts to learn the secret of Samson's strength. First he suggested that she bind him with "seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried," then that she bind him with "new ropes that had never been used." Neither of these revealed his secret.

Interestingly, while Delilah was attempting to learn the secret of his strength, Samson was aware of her motive. He knew the Philistines were there. He wasn't being duped, but he still determined to remain with her in spite of her treachery. He was so confident in his own abilities and in what God had done for him in the past that he had no fear. Although he had repeatedly violated his Nazarite vows, God had always come through for him, and he was not afraid of what these men could do to him.

Again, Delilah pleaded with Samson to tell her his secret. He suggested that she should "weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom."

Now he was getting closer to the truth regarding how his strength could be taken from him. Can this happen to us? We can live too close to the boundaries of right with the risk of going over.

Of course, we know that this did not reveal Samson's secret. Delilah accused him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies'" (verse 15). Then she pestered him day after day, begging him to tell her the secret of his strength "so that his soul was vexed to death" (verse 16).

After many days of enduring Delilah's pleading and begging, the unthinkable happened. He told her the truth. "... he told her all his heart, and said to her, 'No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazarite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man'" (verse 17). Looking at his life, Samson must have realized that he was not the person he was supposed to be and that he had violated almost every part of the vow he had taken. His tone and expression both must have shown the great disappointment he felt in himself and he finally revealed the truth.

"When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, 'Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.' So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand" (verse 18). They were so sure it would work this time that they brought Delilah's payment with them.

The Bible contains some scary Scriptures: "The hour of His judgment has come" (Revelation 14:7-11), "I never knew you, depart from me ..." (Matthew 7:21-23). I believe that Judges 16:20 should be included in that group of texts, "But he did not know that

the Lord had departed from him." Though Delilah had cut his hair, Samson intended to escape as he had previously. Samson's confidence was in himself, his own ability and strength, but he had stepped over the edge and God had left him.

Samson's hair was a sign of his consecration to God and the seven locks represented completeness, the perfection of that commitment. They also represent the seventh-day Sabbath which is the sign of our commitment to God, as Seventh-day Adventists, in the last crisis. If you violate that belief, God will depart from you and you will be lost. There is a parallel in this story for us today.

Samson's strength was gone. He was captured and bound. His eyes were burned out with hot metal rods. He was a prisoner of the Philistines.

Chained in the temple, listening as the Philistines sang the praises of their god Dagon, pelted with food, laughed at and mocked, Samson felt shame and humiliation. I want to suggest to you that he began to remember his faithful parents who did the best they could to direct him in the right path, his Nazarite vow, his consecration to God, his mission, his purpose, and how good God had been to him and that He would save to the uttermost. But he also remembered how he had completely disregarded all of it. His heart ached, but he could shed no tears. So he cried out to the Lord, "O Adonai Yahweh [Lord God], remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O Elohim [God], that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes" (Judges 16:28)!

God understands the cry of a penitent heart. Samson used the most personal name of God that he knew, he confessed that he had dishonored and rejected God, and he knew that God deserved better than what he had given Him, but he pleaded for help one more time.

Bracing himself against the pillars of the temple, Samson cried out, "Let me die with the Philistines" (verse 30, *first part*)! At that moment, Samson realized that the destroyer of the Philistines was exactly what God had

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*He was now a grown man, but the choices of his youth had left a telling mark on his life.*

called him to be from the beginning, and he finally accepted that call. God answered Samson's prayer and when he pushed with all his might, the temple fell on all the lords and all the people.

All his life Samson had served himself. He now recognized that he did not deserve the favor of God, but he determined to obey the purpose that God had for his life. With the destruction of the temple, he brought down the pride, the lust, the oppression, the presumption of the Philistines, to honor God. The Bible says, "So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life." This was such a devastating event that when Samson's brothers came to take his body home for burial, not one Philistine tried to stop them.

"God's promise that through Samson He would 'begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines' was fulfilled; but how dark and terrible the record of that life which might have been a praise to God and glory to the nation! Had Samson been true to his divine calling, the purpose of God could have been accomplished in his honor and exaltation. But he yielded to temptation and proved untrue to his trust, and his mission was fulfilled in defeat, bondage, and death." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 567.

So here is the question: After Samson delivered the crushing blow to the Philistines and became the very thing he first neglected, had he now been faithful to his calling? Do you believe that God forgave Samson? Do you believe He will forgive you?

Friends, it is not until we as Christians die to self that Christ can cause us to really live in Him. It is only when pride, selfishness, lust, and presumption have been removed from our lives that we can truly be used by God for His purpose. Maybe you haven't lived the way you know the Lord wanted you to live. Or maybe you feel you've gone too far. Maybe you are a parent with a child who has left the faith for some reason. Maybe you are that child. You

must remember that "He who began a good work in you" can and will perform it. The Bible says, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). This is the decision you have to make. God is merciful and loving and willing to forgive, but He will never force you to love Him or give your heart to Him. That is something you must be willing to do.

What a wonderful thought that God does not forget, nor does He easily give up on us. The essential point that we must consider is that there is a line that we can cross and it could be too late. We do not want to tempt God and be presumptuous regarding His love for us.

It may be that the experience of Samson is not your experience at all. Maybe you have been true to what you believe has been the purpose God has for your life and you want to remain committed to God. It is not necessary to abandon your faith or God's calling and then come back to have a testimony. The person who follows God's leading and stays the course has a powerful testimony to the strength and care of Jesus.

But, if you can identify with the experience of Samson and want to have a change in your life, if you want to follow the purpose and will of God, then you must commit your life to Him and ask Him to lead you. I believe that Samson said in his heart the words of Micah 7:8, 9: "Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness."

God does not forsake a single one of His children. He has chosen each of us for a purpose and even if it is our choice to enjoy the pleasures of this world for a time, He is still able to fulfill His purposes, and may yet do so, through us. But don't wait until it is too late.

Why have you chosen me,  
Out of millions Your child to be.  
You know all the wrong I have done.

O how could You pardon me,  
Forgive my iniquity,  
To save me gave Jesus Your Son.

But Lord help me be,  
What You want me to be.  
Your word I will strive to obey,  
My life I now give for You I will live,  
And walk by Your side all the way.

I am amazed to know,  
That a God so great could love me so.  
He's willing and wanting to bless.

His grace is so wonderful,  
His mercy so bountiful,  
I can't understand it I confess.

O Lord, help me to be  
What You want me to be,  
Your word I will strive to obey.  
My heart and life I now give  
For You, I will live  
And walk by Your side all the way.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

*Pastor Damien Jenkins was raised in a non-religious home, but at the age of 18 was introduced to the Gospel and his life was forever changed. Today he is pastor of the Water of Life Free Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hohenwald, Tennessee. He enjoys apologetics, Bible history, expounding on the topic of righteousness by faith and making the Bible simple and easy to understand.*



## *Saul Becomes Paul*

### Clues – Acts 7:58–8:3 & 9:1–31

#### *Across*

- B6 After his acceptance, Paul and the disciples were coming and \_\_\_\_\_ at Jerusalem..... 9:28  
 C14 Who had rest for a time?..... 9:31  
 D3 Saul’s traveling companions heard but saw not, so were this ..... 9:7  
 F2 Ananias told the Lord these had suffered..... 9:13  
 F13 Barnabas took Paul to these ..... 9:27  
 H1 The Jews in Damascus thought Paul had come “hither for that \_\_\_\_\_” ..... 9:21  
 H8 Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ to Stephen’s death ..... 8:1  
 I18 Who Paul confounded in Damascus ..... 9:22  
 J7 How many of the disciples in Jerusalem were afraid of Paul?..... 9:26  
 K1 Paul was let down over the wall in this..... 9:25  
 K10 Where Paul first preached Christ ..... 9:20  
 M3 Saul wanted to bring Christians back to Jerusalem this way ..... 9:2  
 M18 Ananias told the Lord that Saul had done much of this ..... 9:13  
 N8 This from heaven interrupted Saul’s journey ..... 9:3  
 O14 What Saul’s companions did by the hand ..... 9:8  
 P2 What Barnabas did to the apostles in Jerusalem ..... 9:27  
 P18 Those who \_\_\_\_\_ Saul were amazed ..... 9:21  
 Q10 At first the disciples in Jerusalem were \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul..... 9:26  
 S1 God used Ananias to heal Saul’s ..... 9:18  
 S7 God told Ananias that Paul would bear His name before these ..... 9:15  
 S14 What wicked Jews watched day and night to kill Paul..... 9:24

#### *Down*

- A8 Saul had a vision that a man would give him this..... 9:12  
 A12 Saul was blind three ..... 9:9  
 A14 God to Saul: it is hard to do this against the pricks..... 9:5  
 A17 What was called Straight?..... 9:11  
 A21 Who did Ananias tell Saul the Lord was?..... 9:17  
 B4 Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ immediately after being healed ..... 9:18  
 B6 God to Ananias: Paul will suffer \_\_\_\_\_ things for my sake..... 9:16  
 B10 Who Paul disputed against in Jerusalem (singular) ..... 9:29  
 E13 He convinced the apostles to accept Paul..... 9:26, 27  
 E19 What Saul wanted from the high priest..... 9:1, 2  
 F16 After conversion, Paul preached that Christ was this (three words) ..... 9:20  
 G8 Symbolically these fell from Saul’s eyes..... 9:18  
 G21 These helped Paul escape by night (singular) ..... 9:25  
 H2 What Saul’s traveling companions saw (two words)..... 9:7  
 H11 What the Jews and Grecians wanted to do to Paul ..... 9:29  
 J5 There was great persecution of the church here..... 8:1  
 K18 Where Saul entered to capture Christians (two words)..... 8:3  
 M9 Ananias to God: Saul has authority to \_\_\_\_\_ all Christians ..... 9:14  
 M11 The \_\_\_\_\_ priests authorized Saul to capture Christians ..... 9:14  
 M14 Churches multiplied when \_\_\_\_\_ in the fear of the Lord ..... 9:31  
 O3 God to Ananias: Saul is a chosen ..... 9:15  
 O7 Saul did not do this for three days..... 9:9  
 O20 What Saul made on the church in Jerusalem ..... 8:3

A	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11		13		15	16		18	19	20		A	
B																						B
C																						C
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Answer Key:

1	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	E	19	K	21	22				
E	Y	E	S	K	A	T	E	S	G	A	T	E	S	G	A	T	E	S	G	A	T	E	S		
R	S																								
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A	Z																								

**Apology:** We apologize for the filled-in puzzle in the August issue. It was an editing error on our part.





## *This Same Jesus Shall So Come*

**T**he time came for Christ to ascend to His Father's throne. As a divine conqueror He was about to return with the trophies of victory to the heavenly courts. As the place of His ascension, He chose the spot so often hallowed by His presence while He dwelt among men. On reaching the Mount of Olives, Jesus led the way across the summit to the vicinity of Bethany. Here He paused, and the disciples gathered about Him. Then with hands outstretched in blessing, He slowly ascended from among them. And as the cloudy chariot of angels received Him out of their sight, the words came down to them, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).



It is “this same Jesus” that is coming again, the One who, when He was on earth, “went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38). The voice of the mighty Healer penetrated the deaf ear. A word, a touch of His hand, opened blind eyes. He rebuked disease and banished fever. His voice reached the ears of the dying, and they arose in health and vigor. In whole villages there was not a moan of sickness in any house; for He had passed through them, and healed all their sick. And while He healed their diseases He taught the people the way of life. ...

This same Jesus, compassionate, tender, is coming again. On the Mount of Olives He told His disciples the signs that will precede His coming. But the day and the hour of His coming He has not revealed. The exact time of the second coming of the Son of man is God’s mystery. The whole world is full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting far off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings. The proud boast is made, “All things continue as they were from the beginning” (2 Peter 3:4). “Tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant” (Isaiah

56:12, *last part*). We will go deeper into pleasure-loving.

But Christ says, “Behold, I come as a thief” (Revelation 16:15). At the very time when the world is asking in scorn, “Where is the promise of His coming” (2 Peter 3:4)? the signs are fulfilling. While they cry, “Peace and safety” (1 Thessalonians 5:3), sudden destruction is coming. When the scorner, the rejecter of truth, has become presumptuous; when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief.

The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure-lovers are still crowding to theatres, horse-races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided.

Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy forever shut.

Christ is coming with clouds and great glory. A multitude of shining angels will attend Him. He will come to raise the dead, and to change the living saints from glory to glory. He will come to honor those who have loved Him, and kept His commandments and to take them to Himself. He has not forgotten them nor His promise. There will be a re-linking of the family chain. When we look upon our dead, we may think of the morning when the trump of God shall sound, when “the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52). A little longer and we shall see the King in His beauty, and He will present us “faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24). Wherefore, when He gave the signs of His coming, He said, “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28).” *The Watchman*, October 3, 1905. [LM](#)

# The Father of Instrumental Music



One time, about two hundred years ago, a little boy named Joseph lived in Austria with his father and mother. At this time, Joseph was six years old. One day, little Joseph saw the schoolmaster playing a violin, and he was thrilled with the sweet sounds.

“Oh, if I could *only* play like that!” he said to himself. “If only my father could buy me a violin!”

But Joseph’s father was too poor to think of such a thing. So our little six-year-old decided to make a violin for himself. His violin was just two sticks.

One day, when his mother was playing on her small harp and his father was singing, little Joseph trotted out with his violin. He held the larger stick as he had seen the schoolmaster hold his violin, and used the smaller stick for a bow. Then he made believe play, and with his sweet little voice he joined in the singing. After that, whenever his parents sang, little Joseph played on his wooden violin.

About this time, a man who had charge of a church choir made up of little boys heard Joseph sing. The child’s voice was so sweet and clear that this man wanted Joseph to come and live with him and sing in his choir with the other little boys.

“Oh, how can I let him go?” said his mother. “He is only a baby.”

But Joseph’s father thought it was a good chance for his son to learn to sing. So Joseph was taken away from home to live with the choirmaster.

The poor little fellow had a hard time without his mother to take care of him. He really had no one to love him. Often his clothes were dirty, and he did not have proper food. But the choirmaster did not care. All he wanted was Joseph’s sweet voice in his choir. But though Joseph had to work very hard for one his age, and though he was often punished, he never complained.

“I shall be grateful to that man as long as I live for keeping me so hard at work,” he afterwards said. Does this not show that he had a very sweet spirit?”

When he was eight years old, another choirmaster took him for his choir. Here Joseph learned to play a real violin as well as some other instruments. Here also he began to write on paper the notes of music that were always floating through his head. No one helped him to do this. It seemed to be in him to write music. He studied the music which others had written, and by working very hard he managed to make progress.

When he was sixteen, his voice gave out. Then the choirmaster did not want him any longer, and the boy was turned out in a large city to look after himself. Poor Joseph had a hard time. It almost seemed as if he would starve. Still he kept at his music.

Finally, a noble prince in Austria took him to his castle to be the director of his musicians. The prince lived miles away from any city. Here in the quiet and beauty of the country, Joseph found a happy home. He loved the prince, and

the prince was very fond of him. Every day, this young musician had to write a new piece of music for the orchestra to play before the prince. With Joseph, this was a labor of love. It was because of this daily work that he gained such skill in writing music. And it was because of this skill that Francis Joseph Haydn is called “The Father of Instrumental Music.”

Francis Joseph Haydn lived with the prince for thirty years. Then the beloved prince died. Joseph Haydn was now a great man. From France and England and other countries, he received invitations. Everywhere he went he was given the greatest attention, and his music won him many new friends.

Joseph Haydn’s greatest piece of music is that famous oratorio called “Creation.” It was written when he was an old man, sixty-five years of age. When he was writing it, it was his custom to kneel before God every day and pray for divine help.

“At the thought of God my heart leaped for joy, and I could not help the music doing the same,” he said, when asked how his music was so cheerful.

“Creation” begins with many harsh tones that represent the time when the earth was without form and void, and everything was in chaos. Then, from those discordant tones comes one grand strain of beautiful harmony with the words, “Let there be light!”

“The music came from above,” said Haydn, pointing upward.

It is a noble thing to give to the world such wonderful music, for as long as time lasts, it will help to make people better.

*True Education, Fifth Grade, ©1933, 171-174. LM*



## *How Blind is Blind?*

**"M**arvelous beyond expression is the blindness of the people of this generation. Thousands reject the word of God as unworthy of belief and with eager confidence receive the deceptions of Satan." *Darkness Before Dawn*, 23.

We have been given the greatest gift that heaven could give, and yet, so few realize it. Almost the whole world denies it, believing in it when they choose, expecting the goodness and mercy of God to be theirs when they want it. How many times have we heard or even said ourselves, I will live the way God wants me to live when this or that happens. But once we have this or that, we see not nor appreciate the God to whom we owe everything.

"That He might save the souls of perishing human beings, He made a gift of such magnitude that it can never be said that God could have made His gift, His donation to the human family, greater. His gift defies computation." *Our High Calling*, 28.

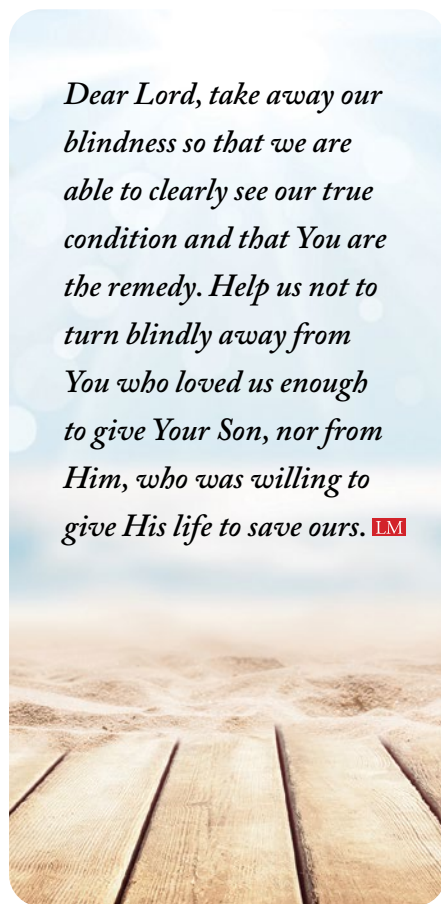
"In this our day men choose to follow their own desires and their own will.

"Can we be surprised that there is so much spiritual blindness?" *Manuscript 163*, 1903.

"So great has been the spiritual blindness of men that they have sought to make of none effect the Word of God. They have declared by their traditions that the great plan of redemption was devised in order to abolish and make of none effect the law of God, when Calvary is the mighty argument that proves the immutability of the precepts of Jehovah. ... There must be a searching out of the peculiar sins which have been offensive to God, which have dishonored His name and quenched the light of His Spirit and killed the first love from the soul. ...

"Victory is assured through faith and obedience. ... The work of overcoming is not restricted to the age of the martyrs. The conflict is for us, in these days of subtle temptation to worldliness, to self-security, to indulgence of pride, covetousness, false doctrines, and immorality of life." *That I May Know Him*, 256.

*Dear Lord, take away our blindness so that we are able to clearly see our true condition and that You are the remedy. Help us not to turn blindly away from You who loved us enough to give Your Son, nor from Him, who was willing to give His life to save ours. LM*





# CAMP MEETING

with  
John Grosboll

September 10 & 11, 2021

Friday: 7:00 pm

Sabbath: 9:15 am - 8:00 pm

(Communion Sabbath afternoon)



## Cumberland Mountain State Park

Recreation Center (next to swimming pool)  
24 Office Dr, Crossville, TN 38555  
Phone for Park: (931) 484-6138

## CAMPING & CABINS:

Cumberland Mountain State Park:  
(931) 484-4727  
(5 miles south of meetings)

## MOTELS:

EXIT 322 (most have a continental breakfast  
and refrigerator):  
Holiday Inn Express: (877) 859-5095  
Hampton Inn: (931) 707-7170  
Comfort Inn & Suites: (855) 849-1513  
Super 8: (800) 536-1211

Call two weeks in advance for discount pricing!

## MEALS:

Provide your own breakfast. Bring food  
to share in a vegan fellowship meal on  
Sabbath following the church service.  
Bring extra for those coming from long  
distances! A light evening meal will be  
provided.

## CHILDREN:

Children will be provided for during  
meetings.

## CAMP MEETING HOSTS:

Danny & Paula Frisby  
(931) 863-8071 - home  
(865) 202-6079 - cell

**Great Central Location!**  
1 hr. 50 min. from Nashville  
1 hr. 30 min. from Chattanooga  
1 hr. 10 min. from Knoxville

## From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

### September 2021

Dear Friend,

Many years ago, the local Seventh-day Adventist pastor and my father went to see a German couple who lived a few miles from my parents' residence. The lady seemed receptive to their visit, but her husband was not. In fact, he told the pastor and my father that they were not to come back. The pastor did not visit them again after that. But my father tried to figure out some reason or excuse for contacting that man again. I will never know until the kingdom of heaven what kind of an excuse he devised, but he not only made contact with the man, he finally won him as a friend and as a result both he and his wife became Seventh-day Adventists.

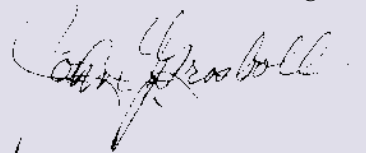
The Bible says that a man that has friends must show himself friendly. The Christian who manifests a friendly spirit has the ability to win many souls to Christ who Himself was the Friend of sinners.

"Catch the spirit of the great Master-Worker. Learn from the Friend of sinners how to minister to sin-sick souls. His heart was ever touched with human woe. Why are we so cold and indifferent? Why are our hearts so unimpressible? Christ placed Himself on the altar of service, a living sacrifice. Why are we so unwilling to give ourselves to the work to which He consecrated His life? Something must be done to cure the terrible indifference that has taken hold upon us. Let us bow our heads in humiliation as we see how much less we have done than we might have done to sow the seeds of truth." *The Upward Look*, 330.

"The Prince of glory left His exalted throne that He might become the Friend of sinners. He died for the salvation of the world, and if we would be His followers, we must labor for the same end as did the Master." *The Review and Herald*, June 14, 1892.

"That all might become acquainted with God manifest in the flesh, He mingled with every class of society, and was called the Friend of sinners. In Himself Christ possessed an absolute right to all things, but He gave Himself to a life of poverty that man might be rich in heavenly treasure. Commander in the heavenly courts, He took the lowest place on earth." *Ibid.*, May 15, 1900.

Your brother in soul winning,



John J. Grosboll

All who  
have donated in  
the past month will  
automatically receive this  
Sermon of the Month  
free of charge.

### September Sermon of the Month

## The Secret to a Happy Home

By John J. Grosboll

To be like Jesus is what it means to be a Christian. When an entire family is like Jesus, then the home will be a happy, heavenly place.

# LANDMARKS

*Printed in Nigeria*

**W**arm greetings from Nigeria! We are grateful to the Lord and many thanks to you at Steps to Life for the assistance we have been receiving to help in the Lord's vineyard.

The security challenges the whole world faces have been a stumbling block to the spread of the gospel, especially in the rural areas of Nigeria where marauding herdsmen attack settlers. But thank the Lord, we are moving on with the work the best we can.

Local churches are organizing outreach efforts including one-on-one Bible studies. We held a community guest day in the Makurdi church at the end of April. Neighbors and friends were invited for the worship service. Thirteen people came as guests. Copies of the books *Steps to Christ for a Sanctified Life* and *High Priest and Coming King*, along with copied portions of

the *LandMarks* about the mark of the beast were distributed. A health and prophecy seminar began the third week of May, held each Wednesday. This way we hope to reach as many as will come through the health message.

The Ministerial Training and Medical Missionary training courses continue on a monthly basis in Gboko with the aim of preparing eleventh-hour workers for the end time.

We continue to print our *LandMarks* magazines smoothly and thousands of copies of the translated Steps to Life Bible studies in the Tiv language have been printed. *Behold He Cometh*, and *Prophecy and World History* tabloids also continue to be printed in the local language on a monthly basis. We will print the English versions after a certain quantity of the Tiv versions have rolled out.

Blessings!

Daniel Teryila **LM**



**Correction of the April issue of *LandMarks*:**

The 13th Sabbath article on page 23 was about the Daily Manna Ministry in Central Nigeria, not Eastern Nigeria as titled in the April 2021 issue of *LandMarks*.



## *A Blessed Gathering*

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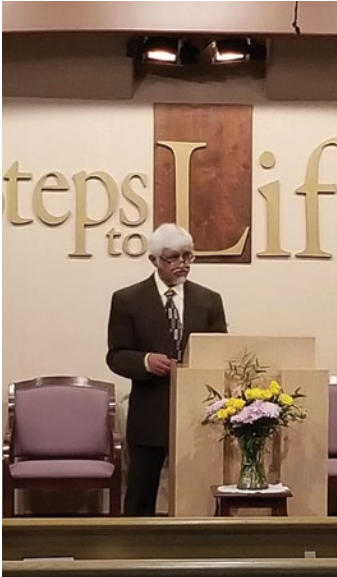
By John Pearson

**M**embers of the Prairie Meadows Church and the Winfield Seventh-Day Fellowship recently gathered for a weekend of special spiritual emphasis on July 2 and 3. The speakers included the pastors of Prairie Meadows Church, Pastor John Grosboll and Pastor Domingo Nunez, who were joined by Dr. Sudhir Pandit of Amity, Arkansas, and Dr. Patricia McEachrane-Gross of Port Angeles, Washington.

The wide variety of subjects presented addressed an array of topics especially relevant to the time in which we are living and of particular importance to those who are striving to be among the 144,000.

Dr. Pandit spoke about the importance of the “hill you choose to die on.” He used the actions that occurred on and the decisions that were made on the different hills and prominences described in the Bible to explain how the events that transpired on those various elevations affected not only the lives of those depicted in the stories, but often the lives of those who came after them, even to this day.





In another presentation, Dr. Pandit used the parable of the ten virgins to show the harmony between the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Then, in discussing the significance of the present truth message, he noted that it has two unmistakable defining characteristics: it is urgent and it has life or death consequences. In Noah’s day, it was certainly urgent that the antediluvians prepare for the coming flood, and the results of their lack of preparation resulted in their deaths. He then stressed that the need for preparation for the judgment and the consequences of the degree of preparation one makes should be guided by today’s present truth—the three angels’ messages.

He explained how accepting the counsel given in the Spirit of Prophecy unifies God’s last day people. He noted that all Christian churches have the Bible, but differences in interpretation have resulted in a myriad of denominations, while Seventh-day Adventists have united in their understanding of present truth.

Pr. Nunez spoke on the light of Christ’s gospel and the importance of not only letting that light influence our lives, but also using that light to influence the lives of others.

Dr. McEachrane-Gross spoke several times, each time stressing the importance of how a healthy lifestyle results in good physical health, which in turn results in good spiritual health. Of special significance, she noted the beneficial effects of a plant-based diet on Type 1 diabetes.

She showed the characteristics of the true remedies given us by God’s messenger to His remnant people, after quoting from *The Ministry of Healing*, page 127, “Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies.”

“True remedies” should be available to all. They should not be expensive and should not involve high tech. They should be able to be done at home and not require a special environment for use. And they should be easily under-

stood and easily implemented. She then explained how the seven days of creation give witness to those eight remedies, as does the rainbow and the sanctuary.

In conclusion, she clarified that while there are indeed instances when modern medical techniques are called for, adherence to the “true remedies” God in His mercy has given us makes those instances occur less frequently.

Pr. Grosboll used his time to present the third installment of a three-part presentation on the battle of Armageddon.\* He stressed that there will be no neutral observers in this battle—every person who is alive when the battle occurs will be an active participant on one side or the other.

When the presentations concluded, there was no denying that indeed it was a weekend of “special spiritual emphasis.”

\*The first two presentations were given earlier in the year. The complete three-part series will be available in a few weeks through the Steps to Life bookstore. [LIM](#)

# It Takes Nerves for Flies to Keep a Level Head

Researchers at Imperial College London have analyzed the nerve connections in the brains of flies that help them maintain a stable gaze during their rapid, complex aerial maneuvering, which in turn prevents them from colliding with obstacles in midflight.

According to an Imperial College press release, scientists have marked the connections between two key sets of nerve cells in a fly's brain that help it process what it sees and fast-track that information to its muscles. This helps it stay agile and respond quickly to its environment while on the move.

The new research shows that the way in which two populations of nerve cells, or neurons, communicate with each other is the key. The lobula plate tangential cells receive input from a fly's eyes, generating small electrical signals that inform the fly about how it is turning and moving during its aerial stunts. The signals pass on to the second group of neurons, which connect to the fly's neck muscles and stabilize its head and thus

its line of sight. By keeping a constant gaze even while its body changes direction, a fly is able to more efficiently process visual information and modify its movements accordingly.

Lead researcher, Dr. Holger Krapp, from Imperial's Department of Bioengineering, says, "The pathway from visual signal to head movement is *ingeniously designed*: it uses information from both eyes, is direct, and does not require heavy computing power."

[Emphasis supplied.]

Krapp added, "Anyone who has watched one fly chasing another at incredibly high speed, without crashing or bumping into anything, can appreciate the high-end flight performance of these animals.


"They manage even though they see the world in poor definition: their version of the world is like a heavily pixelated photo compared with human vision. However, they do have one major advantage. They can update and process visual information more than ten times faster than humans, which is vital for an

insect that relies on fast sensory feedback to maintain its agility."

Dr. Krapp adds: "Keeping the head level and gaze steady is a fundamental task for all animals that rely on vision to help control their movements. Understanding the underlying principles in simple model systems like flies could give us useful leads on how more complex creatures achieve similar tasks." <https://answersingenesis.org/evidence-for-creation/design-in-nature/fly-nervous-system-aids-flight/>

Just as a fly keeps a steady gaze during its rapid maneuvering, so must we maintain a stable gaze while moving quickly, with the eye directed ever upward, fixed upon the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

"Yield not to the power of the tempter. He will come as a strong man armed, but give him no advantage. Nerve yourselves for duty, and dispute every inch of ground. Instead of retreating, advance; instead of becoming weak and nerveless, brace yourselves for the conflict. . . . Put on the whole armor of God, and keep your eye steadily fixed on the Captain of your salvation; for there is danger ahead. . . .

"Soon the warfare will be over and the victory won." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 309. 



Q:

*Do we  
know what  
Jesus looked  
like?*

A:



“He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2, *second part*).

“This is why the Jewish nation did not acknowledge Christ as the Prince of life; because He did not come with display and outward appearance, for He hid under the garb of humanity His glorious character” *Fundamentals of Education*, 381.

“The apostle would call our attention from ourselves to the Author of our salvation. He presents before us His two natures, divine and human. Here is the description of the divine: ‘Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God’ (Philippians 2:6). He was ‘the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person’ (Hebrews 1:3).

“Now, of the human: He ‘was made in the likeness of men: and being found in

fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death’ (Philippians 2:8). He voluntarily assumed human nature. It was His own act, and by His own consent. He clothed His divinity with humanity. He was all the while as God, but He did not appear as God. He veiled the demonstrations of Deity, which had commanded the homage, and called forth the admiration, of the universe of God. He was God while upon earth, but He divested Himself of the form of God, and in its stead took the form and fashion of a man. He walked the earth as a man. ... He walked the earth unrecognized, unconfessed, with but few exceptions, by His creatures.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1126.

“I am the Alpha and Omega ... and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of man, clothed with

a garment down to the feet, and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength” (Revelation 1:8, 13–18).

“Now I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him ... His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. ... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:11–13, 16). **LM**



# The Importance of the Sense of Smell

**O**ur sense of smell is hugely important – especially when it comes to evoking memories. It’s funny how a particular scent can transport you back in time, to a particular memory. The power of smell is surprising every time. There’s a reason why so many real estate agents recommend baking cookies or bread before an open house.

Smell is one of our five senses and linked by the olfactory bulb to the limbic system that controls behavior, emotion, and even memory. This is accomplished by way of odorant molecules that travel through the nose to receptors and the olfactory bulb. Once upon a time, smell would have been important to track food, water, and sense danger.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The average human will have about 5 million smell receptors whereas a dog has anywhere from 125-300 million!

But like our other senses, smell holds a crucial role in our life, and here are five reasons why it is more important than you may think:

**Taste:** Taste receptors found on the tongue, the roof of the mouth and the back of throat help us to determine if a food is sweet, salty, sour, savory or bitter. But 80% of the flavor actually comes from our sense of smell. So fresh fruit like bananas, raspberries and blueberries, or popcorn tastes so good

because of a combination of smell and the appropriate taste receptors in the mouth. That explains why, when hit with a dreadful cold and barely able to breathe through our nose, we don’t care much about what we eat.

**Danger:** Sometimes things just smell awful, like when you’ve left something in the fridge too long or your favorite sneakers are too well-worn and ready for the trash bin. When an odor is unpleasant, our nose gives us a warning signal of danger. Think of fire or gas; either of these smells tell us that something dangerous is nearby.

**Memory:** A certain smell can act like a punch in the gut, or like arms in a loving embrace. It affects the way that you can evoke certain memories. For some people, it brings back a memory of being a child and resting peacefully against a mother’s breast. That’s how strong it is. Whether it’s the smell of family recipes or the perfume your partner wore on the first date, smell creates a powerful imprint on your mind.

**Health:** It is no real surprise that lack of smell could signal big problems. But it can happen. Changes in your sense of smell can occur when you get a cold or flu or suffer from an allergy. Anosmia is a condition wherein a person completely loses their sense of smell, and as

we know today, this can be a symptom of Covid-19. Not only this, studies have shown that some sufferers of Parkinson’s and Alzheimers can show signs of diminishing sense of smell prior to being diagnosed.

The power of smell enriches your life, giving it another dimension that we might take for granted. However, we must be mindful that the devil has many ways in which to use our senses against us. We read in *Counsels for the Church*, 166:

“All should guard the senses, lest Satan gain victory over them; for these are the avenues of the soul.

“You will have to become a faithful sentinel over your eyes, ears, and all your senses if you would control your mind and prevent vain and corrupt thoughts from staining your soul. The power of grace alone can accomplish this most desirable work.

“Satan and his angels are busy creating a paralyzed condition of the senses so that cautions, warnings, and reproofs shall not be heard; or, if heard, that they shall not take effect upon the heart and reform the life.”

Sources: <https://metro.co.uk/2019/04/11/sense-smell-important-think-8976119/>, <https://twitter.com/MetroUK>, [www.facebook.com/MetroUK/](http://www.facebook.com/MetroUK/) and [jackpotcandles.com](http://jackpotcandles.com) and The Dana Foundation **LM**



# *Blessed are the Peacemakers*

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By John J. Grosboll

**W**e live in a world of troublemakers, fighters, and makers of war, glorified and given honor and praise by the nations of this world. But who is the real author of war and what is it that blocks the way to peace?

Looking at the seventh step on the spiritual ladder found in Matthew 5:9, Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” Every step up this ladder raises a person to a loftier realm of spiritual blessedness. The highway of holiness is a pathway of continually increasing joy and peace. Proverbs 4:18 says, “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.” So here we see what happens to the person who first is poor in spirit, one who mourns, is gentle and meek like Christ, hungers and thirsts after righteousness, and is merciful and pure in heart. The person becomes a peacemaker.

The first six steps are blessings on character condition, however in the seventh step Jesus pronounces a blessing upon good works. This is a spiritual experience produced by the first six steps that qualifies the person for missionary work as peacemakers among their friends and neighbors.

How utterly contrary are these steps to the maxims and philosophies of the world in which we live. Since the fall of Adam and Eve and the entrance of sin into the world as recorded in Genesis 3, benedictions and blessings have been given to those who are good soldiers and fighters. In fact, human history is composed largely of biographies of warriors who are eulogized and praised and it has been this way for thousands of years. From a worldly point of view, the blessings and glory go to the peace breakers, the troublemakers, makers of strife and those who foment war.

The lovers and makers of peace are more often held in derision, considered weaklings and cowards. If they strive to promote peace, they are perceived as disloyal or treasonous to their country because the world is largely ruled, not by Christ, but by the anti-christ. The principle intelligence that stands in the place of Christ as the prince of strife is the devil himself. The Bible calls him the god of this world and the author of war, and he is the world's greatest troublemaker.

The devil has made war his chief occupation since his fall and constantly strives to stir up the nations of the world to war. And he has been very successful at it, since we have been in a war of one kind or another somewhere in the world almost constantly since World War II. Satan is the one who sowed the seeds of discord that broke up the peace and harmony that once existed in the universe. His very religion is termed by God as Babylon the great or great confusion. His children are all peace breakers and fomenters of strife. Why? Because there can be no peace where there is sin. The Bible is very clear about this. "There is no peace,"

says my God, 'for the wicked'" (Isaiah 57:21; 48:22). Where sin (wickedness) is, peace cannot exist.

The characteristics of a sinner, a person who has not been converted by the gospel, have been recorded by the apostle Paul in Galatians 5. Paul says, "Now the works of the flesh are evident . . ." and he then lists a long series of things, among them "... hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, murders, rev- elries, and the like ..." (verses 19-21).

Sinners cannot truly be peacemakers. So long as there is sin, there will be strife and war, and it will be impossible to have peace. James says, "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (James 3:16, 17). He goes on to say in chapter 4:1 and 2, that wars and unrest among us are the results of the sinful cravings (lusts) that are in our members.

But Jesus is called the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He is the great Mediator between those who have been alienated. First Timothy 2:5 calls Him the "... one Mediator between God and men." He is the great peacemaker bringing reconciliation to those who have been at war with God and man.

Paul says in Ephesians 2:14, "He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation [partition] ..." between us. Christ alone is the only one who can break down the barriers in the home, in society, among the nations. Where Jesus rules there is peace, whether it be in the kingdom of glory or in the kingdom of grace, in heaven above or in a human heart. And the Bible says the peace He will bring will become greater and greater.

Isaiah 9:6 and 7, *first part*, says, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end."

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*Blessed are the  
peacemakers: for they  
shall be called the children  
of God.*

*Matthew 5:9*



This promise includes not only His rule over the nations, but also His rule in the individual heart. The preeminent qualification for a person to be a peacemaker is, first of all, to have peace himself in his own mind and heart. How can you help somebody else to have peace if you yourself have not experienced peace within? Jesus Christ was the supreme peacemaker because He possessed perfect peace. The Bible says, "... in Him is no sin" (1 John 3:5 KJV). And because He knew no sin, He was able to say, "... the ruler of this world [the devil] is coming, and has nothing in Me" (John 14:30). Because Jesus was in perfect harmony with God, He was also at peace with man. It was for this reason that He was able to love and bless His enemies. He was never fretful or irritated. Nothing ever disturbed His peace. This is what qualified Him to be the preeminent peacemaker, the Prince of Peace.

Jesus promised that if you are a peacemaker, you will be called children of God. The supreme essential to becoming a peacemaker is to become Christlike, so only a child of God can be a peacemaker. If we enthrone Jesus Christ in our hearts, we will have peace with God (Romans 5:1 KJV), and this peace cannot be fully explained.

The apostle Paul described it in this way: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ" (Philippians 4:6, 7). He said that the internal peace you will possess cannot be explained by any human being. But with peace comes wisdom from above, as James described it, that is first pure and then peaceable (James 3:17).

James also says that if there is envying, strife, and dissension which come from pride and selfishness, then there is an evil work afoot and there will be no peace. Love, joy, and peace is the fruit of



*The devil has made war his chief occupation since his fall and constantly strives to stir up the nations of the world to war.*

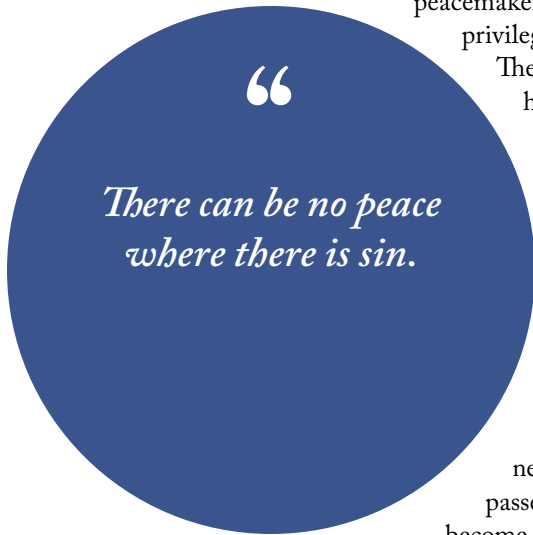
righteousness, and is of the Spirit and not of our own making. Never have we needed peace more in the history of this world than we need it today, but peace does not come by itself; it must be made. Something must be done in order to have peace. Someone once said, "It is hard enough to keep the peace, but it is still more difficult to bring peace where it is not." But that is the very work of the children of God. "Blessed are the peacemakers." They are to bring forth the peaceable fruit of righteousness. This is a very delicate task requiring divine tact, skill, and patience.

Human beings alone can never manufacture peace, because human peace plans do not change the heart, and it is from the heart of man where trouble begins. The Bible is very clear on this. The heart of the sinner is like a troubled sea when it cannot rest (Isaiah 57:20). So, a man-made peace between individuals is no more permanent than a peace between nations. When nations become angry, their peace treaties are no more binding than pieces of paper. It is

only by the grace of Christ that we can create and perpetuate peace. When this is implanted in the heart, then the evil passions that produce strife and dissension are cast out.

Our peace is destroyed by disobedience, both by disobedience to human law and more especially by disobedience to divine law. If people could understand this, they would have a completely different view of the ten commandments. It is because we break God's law that we do not have peace and we will never have peace as long as we continue to break it. The Bible says in Isaiah 48:18, "Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river."

Obedience brings peace, but disobedience to God's law brings only strife, trouble, and dissension. Peace is destroyed by disobedience. It takes the experiences of the first six steps in the development of character to qualify us to become peacemakers and able to bring peace to others. When the peace of God comes into our own hearts,



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*There can be no peace  
where there is sin.*

then we will no longer break the peace by being disobedient to God’s law. Instead, the fruit of the Spirit will become manifest in our life. Love, joy, peace, and longsuffering, the first four fruits of the Holy Spirit, are characteristic of a peacemaker and the peacemaker receives the highest of all privileges: to be called a child of God.

They are so named because they have become like the Son of God, the ultimate peacemaker, in life and character. They likewise become children of peace and carry on the work of peacemaking that the Prince of Peace began.

The apostle Paul describes this Christian life in 2 Corinthians 5:17–20. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” You must be reconciled to God before you can have peace within and before you can help anyone else find peace. Peacemaking was described in the beatitudes by Jesus as the price of becoming an heir. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

Concerning Jesus, the great peacemaker, His Father said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). And the Father is also well pleased with those who through the new birth, become His children and act as did His only begotten Son, their Elder Brother. When we become peacemakers, we can then be called by Jesus the children of God. This places us in the kingdom of heaven and places the kingdom of heaven in us. It makes us, as the Bible says, “... meet to be partakers of the

inheritance of the saints in light” (Colossians 1:12 KJV).

The blessedness of being a peacemaker has been described by a number of Christian writers. Ellen White expresses it so beautifully, “By the life we live through the grace of Christ, the character is formed. The original loveliness begins to be restored to the soul. The attributes of the character of Christ are imparted, and the image of the Divine begins to shine forth. The faces of men and women who walk and work with God express the peace of heaven. They are surrounded with the atmosphere of heaven. For these souls the kingdom of God has begun.” *The Desire of Ages*, 312.

“As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, ‘Come, learn of Me.’ ... The more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here.” *Ibid.*, 331, 332.

This is nothing, however, to be compared with what will be given to the saints of God in the hereafter. We must break every connection with the prince of strife and the author of war and become connected with the Prince of Peace. We must truly be a child of God; not just by profession, but by our words and actions as well. If we are to be considered in heaven a child of God, we must take the seventh step: we must become peacemakers. Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest to your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30).

When you accept that yoke, then you will receive the blessing that comes to the peacemaker. **LM**

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September 26 – October 2

# The Creator and Owner

## Key Text

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

**Study Help:** *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 290–295.

## Introduction

“Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 305.

## Sunday

### 1 CREATOR AND MAINTAINER

1.a. What should we realize in gazing upon the magnificent splendor of creation? Psalm 19:1–3; Isaiah 40:18, 21, 26.

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**Note:** “[Psalm 19:1–3 quoted.] Some may suppose that these grand things in the natural world are God. They are not God. All these wonders in the heavens are only doing the work appointed them. They are the Lord’s agencies. God is the superintendent, as well as the Creator, of all things.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 294.

1.b. What aspect of God’s omnipotence touches us daily? Acts 17:24–29.

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**Note:** “The physical organism of man is under the supervision of God; but it is not like a clock, which is set in operation, and must go of itself. The heart beats, pulse succeeds pulse, breath succeeds breath, but the entire being is under the supervision of God. ... Each heartbeat, each breath, is the inspiration of Him who breathed into the nostrils of Adam the breath of life—the inspiration of the ever-present God, the great I AM.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 294, 295.

## Monday

### 2 WORTHY OF REVERENCE

2.a. What facts show that God is unique in deserving our continual worship? Psalm 33:6–9; Jeremiah 10:9–13.

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**Note:** “God’s claim to reverence and worship, above the gods of the heathen, is based upon the fact that He is the Creator, and that to Him all other beings owe their existence.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 336.

“The Divine Being is engaged in upholding the things that He has created. The same hand that holds the mountains and balances them in position, guides the worlds in their mysterious march around the sun.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 294.

2.b. What questions should inspire us with reverence for God? Job 11:7; 38:1–7. How does this reverence promote the salvation of our souls?

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**Note:** “Divine inspiration asks many questions which the most profound scholar cannot answer. These questions were not asked, supposing that we could answer them, but to call our attention to the deep mysteries of God, and to make men know that their wisdom is limited; that in the common things of daily life there are mysteries past the comprehension of finite minds; that the judgment and purposes of God are past finding out, His wisdom unsearchable. If He reveals Himself to man, it is by shrouding Himself in the thick cloud of mystery.

“God’s purpose is to conceal more of Himself than He makes known to man. Could men fully understand the ways



and works of God, they would not then believe Him to be the infinite One. He is not to be comprehended by man in His wisdom, and reasons, and purposes. ‘His ways are past finding out’ (Romans 11:33). His love can never be explained upon natural principles. If this could be done, we would not feel that we could trust Him with the interests of our souls. Skeptics refuse to believe, because with their finite minds they cannot comprehend the infinite power by which God reveals Himself to men. Even the mechanism of the human body cannot be fully understood; it presents mysteries that baffle the most intelligent.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1141.

## Tuesday

### 3 TRUE OWNERSHIP

3.a. What has God always wanted us to understand regarding the ownership of property? Psalm 50:7, 10–12.

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**Note:** “The Lord sought to teach Israel that in everything He must be first. Thus they were reminded that God was the proprietor of their fields, their flocks, and their herds; that it was He who sent them the sunshine and the rain that developed and ripened the harvest. Everything that they possessed was His.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 337.

“Our bodies belong to God. He paid the price of redemption for the body as well as the soul. ‘Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.’ ‘The body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body’ (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, 13). The Creator watches over the human machinery, keeping it in motion. Were it not for His constant care, the pulse would not beat, the action of the heart would cease, the brain would no longer act its part.” *Counsels on Health*, 586.

3.b. How extensive is God’s property? Psalm 24:1, 2; Deuteronomy 10:14. What does this mean to us? Revelation 4:11.

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**Note:** “Consider that there is only one Proprietor of the universe, and that every man, with his time, his intellect, his resources, belongs to the One who has paid the ransom for the soul. God has a righteous claim to constant service and supreme affection. God’s will, not your pleasure, is to be your criterion.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 137.

“Those who have a constant realization that they stand in this relation to God will not place in the stomach food which pleases the appetite, but which injures the digestive organs. They will not spoil the property of God by indulging improper habits of eating, drinking, or dressing. They will take great care of the human machinery, realizing that they must do this in order to work in copartnership with God. He wills that they shall be healthy, happy, and useful. But in order for them to be this, they must place their wills on the side of His will.” *Child Guidance*, 399.

## Wednesday

### 4 WHO HAS DOMINION?

4.a. To whom did God entrust dominion over His earthly goods? Genesis 1:26–28. Why is this an honor to humanity? Psalm 8:1–9.

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**Note:** “He who set the starry worlds on high and tinted with delicate skill the flowers of the field, who filled the earth and the heavens with the wonders of His power, when He came to crown His glorious work, to place one in the midst to stand as ruler of the fair earth, did not fail to create a being worthy of the hand that gave him life. The genealogy of our race, as given by inspiration, traces back its origin, not to a line of developing germs, mollusks, and quadrupeds, but to the great Creator. Though formed from the dust, Adam was ‘the son of God’ (Luke 3:38).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 45.

4.b. Because of Adam’s fall, what did the deceiver boast to Christ? Luke 4:5, 6.

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4.c. When is Christ’s dominion over this planet to be fully recovered? Daniel 7:13, 14, 26, 27; Micah 4:8; Revelation 11:15.

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**Note:** “When Satan declared to Christ, The kingdom and glory of the world are delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it, he stated what was true only in part, and he declared it to serve his own purpose of deception. Satan’s dominion was that wrested from Adam, but Adam was the vicegerent of the Creator. His was not an independent rule. The earth is God’s, and He has committed all things to His Son. Adam was to reign subject to Christ. When Adam betrayed his sovereignty into Satan’s hands, Christ still remained the rightful King. Thus the Lord had said to King Nebuchadnezzar, ‘The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will’ (Daniel 4:17). Satan can exercise his usurped authority only as God permits.” *The Desire of Ages*, 129, 130.

“Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, ‘dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;’ He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, ‘prepared as a bride adorned for her husband’ (Daniel 7:14; Revelation 21:2). Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are to ‘sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob,’ at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.” *The Great Controversy*, 427.

**Thursday**

**5 STEWARDSHIP ENTRUSTED**

5.a. Whenever any degree of dominion—great or small—is entrusted to us, what admonition are we to heed? Deuteronomy 8:11–18.

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**Note:** “We should regard ourselves as stewards of the Lord’s property and God as the supreme proprietor, to whom we are to render His own when He shall require it.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 480, 481.

5.b. What message bears special force in these final days, just before our Lord’s return? Luke 19:11–13.

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**Note:** “God calls us servants, which implies that we are employed by Him to do a certain work and bear certain responsibilities. He has lent us capital for investment. It is not *our* property, and we displease God if we hoard up our Lord’s goods or spend them as we please. ...

“Every talent which returns to the Master will be scrutinized. The doings and trusts of God’s servants will not be considered an unimportant matter. Every individual will be dealt with personally and will be required to give an account of the talents entrusted to him, whether he has improved or abused them. The reward bestowed will be proportionate to the improvement of the talents. The punishment awarded will be according as the talents have been abused. ...

“The talents are in our hands. Shall we use them to God’s glory, or shall we abuse them? We may trade with them today, but tomorrow our probation may end and our account be forever fixed.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 668. [Emphasis author’s.]

**Friday**

**PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1 What facts reveal that our Creator is also our Sustainer?
- 2 Why is God alone worthy to be worshiped?
- 3 How should we respond when we consider that God owns everything, and that He has entrusted dominion of the earth to humans?
- 4 What should we understand about Satan’s usurped authority?
- 5 What temptation comes when we are entrusted with goods?

# The Ultimate Giver

## Key Text

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

**Study Help:** *Counsels on Stewardship*, 72; *God’s Amazing Grace*, 62.

## Introduction

“God is love. Like rays of light from the sun, love and light and joy flow out from Him to all His creatures. It is His nature to give. His very life is the outflow of unselfish love.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 77.

## Sunday

### 1 HALLMARKS OF GOD’S CHARACTER

1.a. After bestowing life upon humanity, what else did God provide? Genesis 2:7, 15. Why is this a blessing for us? Ecclesiastes 5:12, 18.

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**Note:** “Adam was not to be idle. No sooner was he created than his work was given him. He was to find employment and happiness in tending the things that God had created, and in response to his labor his wants were to be abundantly supplied from the fruits of the Garden of Eden.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 273, 274.

1.b. What daily evidences reveal God’s abundant love for us? Psalm 36:5–9; Acts 14:17.

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**Note:** “We are indebted to Him [God] for every moment of existence, and for all the comforts of life.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 17.

“We are to regard the trees laden with fruit as the gift of God, just as much as though He placed the fruit in our hands.” *Lift Him Up*, 62.

## Monday

### 2 GOD’S GREATEST GIFTS

2.a. What is the greatest of God’s gifts? John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4–7.

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**Note:** “The treasure of the gospel, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, was among them [the Jewish people], but they rejected the greatest gift that Heaven could bestow.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 105.

“Christ has purchased us by the price of His own blood. He has paid the purchase money for our redemption, and if we will lay hold upon the treasure, it is ours by the free gift of God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 245.

2.b. What does Christ promise His followers as a gift from the Father to Him? John 6:37–39; 17:24. Why should this fact encourage all? James 1:17, 18.

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**Note:** “How much God loves human beings, we never can compute. The universe is filled with proofs of His measureless benevolence.

“Christ has a claim on all in this world. ‘All things are delivered to Me of My Father,’ He said (Luke 10:22). ‘All things that the Father hath are Mine.’ ‘All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth’ (John 16:15; Matthew 28:18). All in heaven and in earth is at His service. The great gift of heavenly love was not to be shut up in the bosom of the Father. It was to Christ, to give to needy human beings.

“Christ is full of grace and truth. He is all and in all. Then let no human being take glory to himself. The glory is to be given to the Son of God. Now and forever He is to receive all praise.” *Battle Creek Letters*, 65.



“Because we are the gift of His Father, and the reward of His work, Jesus loves us. He loves us as His children. Reader, He loves you. Heaven itself can bestow nothing greater, nothing better.” *The Desire of Ages*, 483.

“It is your privilege to trust in the love of Jesus for salvation, in the fullest, surest, noblest manner; to say, He loves me, He receives me; I will trust Him, for He gave His life for me. Nothing so dispels doubt as coming in contact with the character of Christ.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 517.

## Tuesday

### 3 WHO IS CHRIST?

3.a. As we reverence the heavenly Father as Creator, what should we also understand about Jesus Christ? Hebrews 1:1–3; John 1:1–3.

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**Note:** “If Christ made all things, He existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity. God over all, blessed forevermore.” *Lift Him Up*, 16.

3.b. Upon what basis is Christ entitled to our worship and discipleship? Ephesians 3:9; Philippians 2:5–10.

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**Note:** “The greatest gift that God could bestow upon men was bestowed in the gift of His beloved Son. The apostle says, ‘He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?’ (Romans 8:32). There was nothing held in reserve. No second probation will ever be provided. If the unspeakable gift of God does not lead man to repentance, there is nothing that ever will move his heart. There is no power held in reserve to act upon his mind, and arouse his sensibilities. The whole character of God was revealed in His Son, the whole range of the possibilities of heaven is displayed for the acceptance of man in the Son of the Infinite One. The way for man’s return to God and heaven has no barriers. The matchless depths of the Saviour’s love have been demonstrated; and if this manifestation of God’s



love for the children of men does not prevail to draw men to Himself, there is nothing that ever will.” *The Signs of the Times*, December 30, 1889.

“The apostle Paul, writing by the Holy Spirit, declares of Christ that ‘all things have been created through Him, and unto Him; and He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together’ (Colossians 1:16, 17, R.V., margin). The hand that sustains the worlds in space, the hand that holds in their orderly arrangement and tireless activity all things throughout the universe of God, is the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.” *Education*, 132.

## Wednesday

### 4 A HEAVENLY PRINCIPLE

4.a. What fundamental concept should we learn from the example of Christ’s earthly life? Luke 22:27, *last part*; Hebrews 5:8; 12:2, 3.

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**Note:** “The foundation of the plan of salvation was laid in sacrifice. Jesus left the royal courts and became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. All who share this salvation, purchased for them at such an infinite sacrifice by the

Son of God, will follow the example of the true Pattern. Christ was the chief Cornerstone, and we must build upon this Foundation. Each must have a spirit of self-denial and self-sacrifice. The life of Christ upon earth was unselfish; it was marked with humiliation and sacrifice. And shall men, partakers of the great salvation which Jesus came from heaven to bring them, refuse to follow their Lord and to share in His self-denial and sacrifice?" *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 387. [Emphasis author's.]

**4.b. In what sense are we to gladly follow Christ's example of sacrifice? 1 Peter 2:21; Romans 12:1, 2.**

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**Note:** "Christ sacrificed everything for man in order to make it possible for him to gain heaven. Now it is for fallen man to show what he will sacrifice on his own account for Christ's sake, that he may win immortal glory. Those who have any just sense of the magnitude of salvation and of its cost will never murmur that their sowing must be in tears and that conflict and self-denial are the Christian's portion in this life." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 481.

"He [Christ] laid aside His glory, His dominion, His riches, and sought after those who were perishing in sin. He humbled Himself to our necessities, that He might exalt us to heaven. Sacrifice, self-denial, and disinterested benevolence characterized His life. He is our pattern. Have you ... imitated the Pattern?" *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 549.

"The words, 'Ye are not your own;' 'ye are bought with a price' (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20), should be hung in memory's hall, that we may ever recognize God's right to our talents, our property, our influence, our individual selves. We are to learn how to treat this gift of God, in mind, in soul, in body, that as Christ's purchased possession we may do Him healthful savory service." *Medical Ministry*, 276.

**Thursday**

**5 GRACE GRANTED**

**5.a. What is grace—and why is it essential for our salvation? Romans 5:6–9; Ephesians 2:8, 9.**

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**Note:** "Grace is unmerited favor, and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of heaven as the sinner's substitute and surety." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 398.

"His [the Saviour's] grace is sufficient to subdue sin." *The Faith I Live By*, 87.

**5.b. How should we respond to God's bountiful grace? Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11–14.**

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**Note:** "Are good works of no real value? Is the sinner who commits sin every day with impunity, regarded of God with the same favor as the one who through faith in Christ tries to work in his integrity? The Scripture answers [Ephesians 2:10 quoted].

"In His divine arrangement, through His unmerited favor, the Lord has ordained that good works shall be rewarded. We are accepted through Christ's merit alone; and the acts of mercy, the deeds of charity, which we perform, are the fruits of faith; and they become a blessing to us; for men are to be rewarded according to their works.

"It is the fragrance of the merit of Christ that makes our good works acceptable to God, and it is grace that enables us to do the works for which He rewards us." *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 199, 200.

"All your good works cannot save you; but it is nevertheless impossible for you to be saved without good works. Every sacrifice made for Christ will be for your eternal gain." *Ibid.*, 147.

**Friday**

**PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1 Name some simple gifts of God bestowed from the days of Eden.
- 2 How does God's greatest gift involve a reciprocal relationship?
- 3 Why is it important for us to understand who Christ really is?
- 4 What fundamental principle underlies the entire plan of salvation?
- 5 What power does grace give the redeemed in preparation for Heaven?

October 10 – 16, 2021

# Wholehearted, Voluntary Service

## Key Text

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:30).

**Study Help:** *Early Writings*, 266–269.

## Introduction

“The whole being—heart, soul, mind, and strength—is to be used in God’s service. What is there left that is not devoted to God?” *The Review and Herald*, November 6, 1900.

## Sunday

### 1 MOTIVE FOR SERVICE

1.a. What aspects of discipleship are often overlooked by many who profess to follow Christ? Mark 8:34; John 15:19, 20.

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**Note:** “Few are willing to imitate His [Christ’s] amazing privations, to endure His sufferings and persecutions, and to share His exhausting labor to bring others to the light. But few will follow His example in earnest, frequent prayer to God for strength to endure the trials of this life and perform its daily duties.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 664.

1.b. What contrast exists between true and false service? Job 31:24–28; 29:11–16. Why must we reexamine our motives?

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**Note:** “With many, the rubbish of the world has clogged the channels of the soul. Selfishness has controlled the mind and warped the character. Were the life hid with Christ in God, His service would be no drudgery. If the whole heart were consecrated to God, all would find something to do, and would covet a part in the work. They would sow beside all waters, praying and believing that the fruit would appear.” *The Review and Herald*, December 19, 1878.

## Monday

### 2 THE KEYNOTE OF CHRIST’S TEACHINGS

2.a. What unfortunate contrast exists between Christ Himself and many of His professed followers today? Philippians 2:5–8, 21.

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**Note:** “The plan of salvation was laid in a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. Christ did not send His angels to this fallen world, while He remained in heaven; but He Himself went without the camp, bearing the reproach. He became a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; Himself took our infirmities, and bore our weaknesses. And the absence of self-denial in His professed followers, God regards as a denial of the Christian name. Those who profess to be one with Christ, and indulge their selfish desires for rich and expensive clothing, furniture, and food, are Christians only in name. To be a Christian is to be Christlike.

“And yet how true are the words of the apostle: ‘For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s’ (Philippians 2:21). Many Christians do not have works corresponding to the name they bear. They act as if they had never heard of the plan of redemption wrought out at infinite cost. The majority aim to make a name for themselves in the world; they adopt its forms and ceremonies, and live for the indulgence of self. They follow out their own purposes as eagerly as do the world, and thus they cut off their power to help in establishing the kingdom of God.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 54.

2.b. What heavenly principle does Christ enjoin upon all of His followers today? Why? Matthew 16:24–26.

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**Note:** “Those who would gain the blessing of sanctification must first learn the meaning of self-sacrifice. The cross of Christ is the central pillar on which hangs the ‘far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory’ (2 Corinthians 4:17). [Matthew 16:24 quoted.] It is the fragrance of our love for our fellowmen that reveals our love for God. It is patience in service that brings rest to the soul.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 560.

“We are to practice the same self-sacrifice that led Him [Christ] to give Himself up to the death of the cross, to make it possible for human beings to have eternal life.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 49.

## Tuesday

### 3 LEARNING FROM THE APOSTLES

3.a. What was the secret of the apostle Paul’s fervent love for the souls of men and women? 2 Corinthians 4:15–18; 5:14, 15.

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**Note:** “How can those for whom Christ has sacrificed so much, continue to enjoy His gifts selfishly? His love and self-denial are without a parallel; and when this love enters into the experience of His followers, they will identify their interests with those of their Redeemer. Their work will be to build up the kingdom of Christ. They will consecrate themselves and their possessions to Him, and use both as His cause may require.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 55.

“The love of Jesus in the soul will be revealed in word and deed. The kingdom of Christ will be paramount. Self will be laid a willing sacrifice on the altar of God. Everyone who is truly united with Christ will feel the same love for souls that caused the Son of God to leave His royal throne, His high command, and for our sake become poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.” *Ibid.*

3.b. Of what tendency does the apostle John warn believers—and how may this apply to us? 1 John 2:15–17.

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**Note:** “As professed Christians, what are we doing? Souls all around us, close beside our homes, and those afar off, are perishing in their sins, unwarned, uncared for. Every day we pass by those who are without hope and without God in the world, and never open our lips to tell them of Christ and His love. A worldly infatuation keeps men and women spellbound. . . . Soldiers of the cross of Christ should be moving heaven with their prayers for God to work, for His power to cooperate with the human agent to reach men where they are.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, 95.

“While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying without hope and without God in the world. Many, very many, for the sake of worldly advantage, for the sake of acquiring knowledge of the sciences, will venture into pestilential regions, and will go into countries where they think they can obtain commercial advantage; but where are the men and women who will change their location, and move their families into regions that are in need of the light of the truth, in order that their example may tell upon those who shall see in them the representatives of Christ?” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 56.

## Wednesday

### 4 A PURE, CONTENTED HEART

4.a. As servants of Christ, what should characterize our faith? Why? Ephesians 6:6–8.

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**Note:** “Is there not danger that the precious, immortal inheritance maybe eclipsed by the valueless treasure of earth? There is danger that your usefulness may be destroyed, your faith weakened, your soul-temple defiled with buyers and sellers.” *The Review and Herald*, June 19, 1888.

4.b. Why did Christ reiterate the tenth commandment during His ministry? Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:15. How are we to gain victory in this area? 1 Corinthians 15:31.

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**Note:** “Christ is our example. He gave His life as a sacrifice for us, and He asks us to give our lives as a sacrifice for others. Thus we may cast out the selfishness which Satan is constant-



ly striving to implant in our hearts. This selfishness is death to all piety, and can be overcome only by manifesting love to God and to our fellowmen. Christ will not permit one selfish person to enter the courts of heaven. No covetous person can pass through the pearly gates; for all covetousness is idolatry.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 26.

“Constant, self-denying benevolence is God’s remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness. God has arranged systematic benevolence to sustain His cause and relieve the necessities of the suffering and needy. He has ordained that giving should become a habit, that it may counteract the dangerous and deceitful sin of covetousness. Continual giving starves covetousness to death. Systematic benevolence is designed in the order of God to tear away treasures from the covetous as fast as they are gained and to consecrate them to the Lord, to whom they belong. . . .

“Riches make men selfish, and hoarding feeds covetousness; and these evils strengthen by active exercise. God knows our danger and has hedged us about with means to prevent our own ruin. He requires the constant exercise of benevolence, that the force of habit in good works may break the force of habit in an opposite direction.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 548.

## Thursday

### 5 RENDERING GENUINE SERVICE

5.a. How can we be encouraged by the example of the early Christians in Macedonia? 2 Corinthians 8:1–5.

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**Note:** “Nearly all the Macedonian believers were poor in this world’s goods, but their hearts were overflowing with love for God and His truth, and they gladly gave for the support of the gospel. When general collections were taken up in the Gentile churches for the relief of the Jewish believers, the liberality of the converts in Macedonia was held up as an example to other churches.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 343.

5.b. How does Christ summarize our duty as believers? Mark 12:29–31. What happens as we put this principle into daily practice? Matthew 7:24, 25.

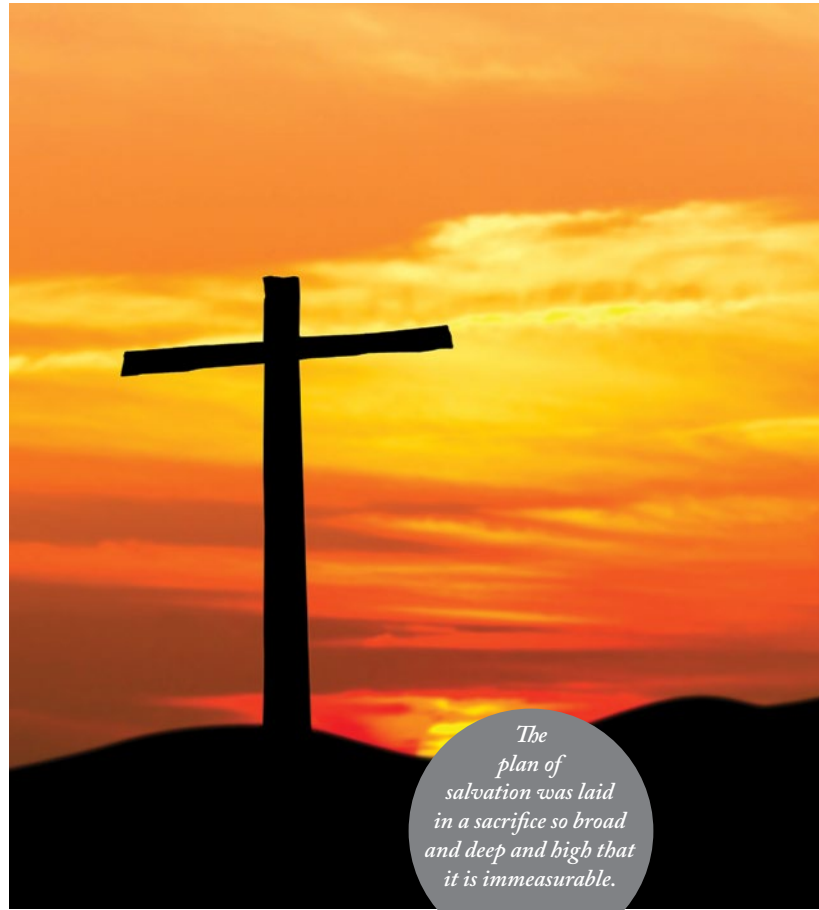
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The plan of salvation was laid in a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable.

**Note:** “The whole being is to be consecrated to the service of the Master.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 16, 1901.

“No one can be truly united with Christ, practicing His lessons, submitting to His yoke of restraint, without realizing that which he can never express in words. New, rich thoughts come to him. Light is given to the intellect, determination to the will, sensitiveness to the conscience, purity to the imagination. The heart becomes more tender, the thoughts more spiritual, the service more Christlike. In the life there is seen that which no words can express—true, faithful, loving devotion of heart, mind, soul, and strength to the work of the Master.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 476, 477.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How did the life of Job reflect the Spirit of Christ?
- 2 What common tendency must we overcome if we would be victorious?
- 3 What do Paul and John teach us about cultivating eternal values?
- 4 Why is covetousness so detrimental to our souls?
- 5 How is wholehearted service rewarded, even in this earthly life?

October 17 – 23, 2021

# Zeal in Service

## Key Text

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:19).

**Study Help:** *Colporteur Ministry*, 154, 155.

## Introduction

“All the advantages which God has given are His means to throw ardor into the spirit, zeal into effort, and vigor into the carrying out of His holy will.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 360.

## Sunday

### 1 A NEW ATTITUDE NEEDED

1.a. What should we learn from Christ’s warning against murmuring and half-hearted service? **Matthew 25:14, 15, 18, 24–30.**

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**Note:** “How many feel as did the servant with the one talent, that the Lord is an austere man, reaping where He has not sown, and gathering where He has not strewn. This view of the matter is a delusion of the wicked one; for what have we that we did not receive? ‘All things come of Thee, and of thine own have we given Thee’ (1 Chronicles 29:14), should be the language of our grateful hearts.” *The Review and Herald*, June 12, 1888.

1.b. What admonitions of Christ apply with special force in these last days of earth’s history? **Matthew 24:12; Revelation 2:4.**

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**Note:** “The members of the church should each have a jealous care that the enemies of our faith have no occasion to triumph over their lifeless, backslidden state. Some have wasted their influence, when with a little self-denial, earnestness, and zeal, they might have been a power on the side of good. This zeal will not come without effort, without earnest struggles.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 287.

## Monday

### 2 A QUALITY TO SEEK

2.a. How does the Bible depict the vital importance of zeal for God? **Psalms 42:1; 84:2.** If this quality is lacking in us, how can we acquire it? **Jeremiah 29:13.**

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**Note:** “There are many who give no decided evidence that they are true to their baptismal vows. Their zeal is chilled by formality, worldly ambition, pride, and love of self. Occasionally their feelings are stirred, but they do not fall on the Rock, Christ Jesus. They do not come to God with hearts that are broken in repentance and confession. Those who experience the work of true conversion in their hearts will reveal the fruits of the Spirit in their lives.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 155.

“There is need of fasting, humiliation, and prayer over our decaying zeal and languishing spirituality.” *Ibid.*, vol. 4, 535, 536.

2.b. What promise is for all who yearn to become Christ-like? **Matthew 5:6.** Why is Jacob’s experience so valuable to us? **Genesis 32:24–30.**

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**Note:** “God is looking for piety, self-denial, self-sacrifice, compassion for man, and zeal for God. He longs to see in man a deep yearning of soul to save his fellow-man from unbelief and ruin.” *The Signs of the Times*, February 15, 1899.

“With the great truth we have been privileged to receive, we should, and under the Holy Spirit’s power we could, become living channels of light. We could then approach the mercy seat; and seeing the bow of promise, kneel with contrite hearts, and seek the kingdom of heaven with a spiritual violence that would bring its own reward. We would take it by force, as did Jacob. Then our message would be the power of God unto salvation.” *Reflecting Christ*, 217.



There are many who give no decided evidence that they are true to their baptismal vows. Their zeal is chilled by formality, worldly ambition, pride.

“Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God: ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me’ (Psalm 51:10). Be in earnest, be sincere. Fervent prayer availeth much. Jacob-like, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. Jesus in the garden sweat great drops of blood; you must make an effort. Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God; then watch, and just as long as you watch and pray you can keep these evil besetments under, and the grace of God can and will appear in you.” *Messages to Young People*, 131, 132.

**Tuesday**

**3 ZEAL IN ACTION**

3.a. What can we learn from the struggles endured and the victories won by faithful witnesses for God? Jeremiah 20:8–11; Acts 4:14–20.

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**Note:** “So strong was the opposition against Jeremiah’s message, so often was he derided and mocked, that he said, ‘I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name’ (Jeremiah 20:9). Thus it has ever been. Because of the bitterness, hatred, and opposition manifested against the word of God spoken in reproof, many other messengers of God have decided to do as Jeremiah decided. But what did this prophet of the Lord do after his decision? Try as much as he would, he could not hold his peace. As soon as he came into the assemblies of the people, he found that the Spirit of the Lord was stronger than he was.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1156.

“Zeal for God and His cause moved the disciples to bear witness to the gospel with mighty power. Should not a like zeal fire our hearts with a determination to tell the story of redeeming love, of Christ and Him crucified? It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of the Saviour.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 600.

3.b. What type of experience must be echoed in us? Psalm 119:137–140; 1 John 3:1–3.

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**Note:** “Elder Loughborough was a zealous worker in the cause. His whole heart had been in the work. He entered ... a new field of labor, and he was willing to place himself in the humblest position, endure any and every privation, economize, live cheap and poor, labor early and late for the infant cause.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 246.

“We are standing upon the verge of the eternal world. Because iniquity abounds, the love of many is waxing cold. Instead of this, love for God, love for purity, truth, and holiness, should be increasing in our hearts. The increase of wickedness around us should awaken in us more earnest zeal and stronger determination.” *The Review and Herald*, November 29, 1881.

**Wednesday**

**4 AVOIDING MISGUIDED ZEAL**

4.a. What are some ways in which we may be in danger of going astray through misguided zeal? Romans 10:1–3; 1 Corinthians 10:23.

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**Note:** “When some who lack the Spirit and power of God enter a new field, they commence denouncing other denominations, thinking that they can convince the people of the truth by presenting the inconsistencies of the popular churches. It may seem necessary on some occasions to speak of these things, but in general it only creates prejudice against our work and closes the ears of many who might otherwise have listened to the truth. If these teachers were connected closely with Christ, they would have divine wisdom to know how to approach the people.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 536.

**4.b. What was wrong with the false zeal of Jehu? 2 Kings 10:16–19, 28–31.**

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**Note:** “There are many whose religion consists in activities. They want to be engaged in, and have the credit of doing, some great work while the little graces that go to make up a lovely Christian character are entirely overlooked. The busy, bustling service, which gives the impression that one is doing some wonderful work, is not acceptable to God. It is a Jehu spirit, which says, ‘Come, see my zeal for the Lord’ (2 Kings 10:16). It is gratifying to self; it feeds a self-complacent feeling; but all the while the soul may be defiled with the plague-spot of unsubdued, uncontrolled selfishness.” *The Signs of the Times*, November 20, 1884.

“Christian zeal is controlled by principle and is not spasmodic. It is earnest, deep, and strong, engaging the whole soul and arousing to exercise the moral sensibilities. The salvation of souls and the interests of the kingdom of God are matters of the highest importance. . . .

“Christian zeal will not exhaust itself in talk, but will feel and act with vigor and efficiency. Yet Christian zeal will not act for the sake of being seen. Humility will characterize every effort and be seen in every work. Christian zeal will lead to earnest prayer and humiliation, and to faithfulness in home duties. In the family circle will be seen the gentleness and love, benevolence and compassion, which are ever the fruits of Christian zeal.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 232, 233.

## Thursday

### 5 THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

**5.a. How was the psalmist’s prophecy of godly zeal fulfilled in Christ? Psalm 69:9; John 2:13–17; 4:34. What factors should we learn from Christ’s zeal? 1 Corinthians 2:2–4.**

**Note:** “He [Christ] lived the law. His purity and beneficence, His devotion to the truth, and His zeal for God’s glory reveal the perfection of the law.” *The Review and Herald*, February 26, 1901.

“Christ declared that it was His meat and drink to do His Father’s will. The zeal that comes through such sanctification of the truth makes the believer in the truth powerful, for he is the repository of sacred truth, and as he partakes of the truth he will be a helpful Christian. Zeal should always be uniform, manifesting a holiness of character.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, 131.

**5.b. What appeal does Christ make to each one living in the lukewarm era of Laodicea? Revelation 3:19.**

**Note:** “When it comes to the service of God, do men manifest the same zeal for His work as they formerly manifested in the service of the world?” *The Review and Herald*, June 12, 1888.

“At this time, when the end of all things is at hand, should not the zeal of the church exceed even that of the early church? Zeal for the glory of God moved the disciples to bear witness to the truth with mighty power. Should not this zeal fire our hearts with a longing to tell the story of redeeming love, of Christ and Him crucified? Should not the power of God be even more mightily revealed today than in the time of the apostles?” *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 33.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What warning should we heed from the parable of the talents?
- 2 Which aspect of Jacob’s experience is also to be ours—and why?
- 3 What can we learn from Jeremiah, David, and the early apostles?
- 4 How might we be manifesting symptoms of misguided zeal?
- 5 What characterizes genuine zeal?



October 24 – 30, 2021

# Energy and Efficiency

## Key Text

“As ye go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’ ” (Matthew 10:7).

**Study Help:** *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 342–346.

## Introduction

“Because time is short, we should work with diligence and double energy.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 159.

## Sunday

### 1 A TALENT FOR EVERYONE

1.a. Even in the fast-paced era in which we live, what does God mercifully provide—and why? Ecclesiastes 3:1.

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**Note:** “Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time. ...

“We have but a few days of probation in which to prepare for eternity. We have no time to waste, no time to devote to selfish pleasure, no time for the indulgence of sin. It is now that we are to form characters for the future, immortal life. It is now that we are to prepare for the searching judgment.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 342.

1.b. What factors should we take into consideration as we plan our use of time? James 4:13–15.

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**Note:** “The shortness of time demands an energy that has not been aroused among those who claim to believe the present truth.” *Counsels on Health*, 506.

“If all would use their time to the best account, very much means would be saved to the cause of truth. When the heart is in the work, it will be done with earnestness, energy, and dispatch.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 451.

## Monday

### 2 WISE TO THE ENEMY’S STRATEGY

2.a. In seeking to advance God’s work, what must we realize? 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:12.

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**Note:** “We have no time to lose. The powers of darkness are working with intense energy, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do, but soon it will be more difficult than we imagine.” *Evangelism*, 218.

“Oh! we must be terribly in earnest to impress upon every soul that there is a heaven to win and a hell to shun. Every energy of the soul must be aroused to force their passage, and seize the kingdom by force. Satan is active, and we must be active too. Satan is untiring and persevering, and we must be the same. There is no time to make excuses and blame others for our backslidings; no time now to flatter the soul [that] if circumstances had only been more favorable, how much better, how much easier [it would be] for us to work the works of God. We must tell even those who profess to believe in Christ, that they must cease to offend God by sinful excuses.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 336.

2.b. What does Inspiration teach about the struggle before us? Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 24:13.

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**Note:** “In consideration of the shortness of time we as a people should watch and pray, and in no case allow ourselves to be diverted from the solemn work of preparation for the

great event before us. Because the time is apparently extended, many have become careless and indifferent in regard to their words and actions. They do not realize their danger and do not see and understand the mercy of our God in lengthening their probation, that they may have time to form characters for the future, immortal life. Every moment is of the highest value. Time is granted them, not to be employed in studying their own ease and becoming dwellers on the earth, but to be used in the work of overcoming every defect in their own characters and in helping others, by example and personal effort, to see the beauty of holiness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 306, 307.

“With intensified zeal and energy we are to carry forward the work of the Lord till the close of time.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 548.

## Tuesday

### 3 RESOURCES MADE USEFUL

3.a. What are some points that our Master wants us to understand about the various talents entrusted to us? Luke 19:13.

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**Note:** “However large, however small the possessions of any individual, let him remember that it is his only in trust. For his strength, skill, time, talents, opportunities, and means, he must render an account to God. This is an individual work; God gives to us, that we may become like Him, generous, noble, beneficent, by giving to others. Those who, forgetful of their divine mission, seek only to save or to spend in the indulgence of pride or selfishness, may secure the gains and pleasures of this world; but in God’s sight, estimated by their spiritual attainments, they are poor, wretched, miserable, blind, naked.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 22.

“I cannot find an instance in the life of Christ where He devoted time to play and amusement. He was the great educator for the present and the future life; yet I have not been able to find one instance where He taught the disciples to engage in amusement in order to gain physical exercise. The world’s Redeemer gives to every man his work and bids him, ‘Occupy till I come’ (Luke 19:13). In doing this, the heart warms to the enterprise. All the powers of the being are enlisted in the effort to obey. We have a high and holy calling.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 309.

3.b. What should we learn from Solomon’s experience? Ecclesiastes 2:10, 11.

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**Note:** “We must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention. There are matters that consume time and arouse inquiry but end in nothing. The highest interests demand the close attention and energy that are so often given to comparatively insignificant things.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 456.

“Let the people see that you have a mind for usefulness and duty, and that to the saving of the soul. The amusements that consume time, just to gratify self, do not pay.” *Medical Ministry*, 82.

“The energy now concentrated on cheap, perishable goods should be enlisted in the work that is to enlighten the world. Let every energy God has given be used in the work which bears with it the blessed satisfaction that it is for time and for eternity.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, 267.

## Wednesday

### 4 A PURCHASED POSSESSION

4.a. Why is the attitude of the foolish rich man a warning for us? Luke 12:16–21.

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**Note:** “There is a sad withholding from God on the part of His professed people. The means and efforts that should be given to Christ are devoted to self-pleasing. God is robbed of time, money, and service. Self-love, self-gratification, exclude the love of Jesus from the soul, and this is why there is not in the church greater zeal and more fervent love for Him who first loved us.” *The Signs of the Times*, December 22, 1890.

“Men act as though they were bereft of their reason. They are buried up in the cares of this life. They have no time to devote to God, no time to serve Him. Work, work, work, is the order of the day. All about them are required to labor

upon the high-pressure plan, to take care of large farms. To tear down and build greater is their ambition, that they may have wherewith to bestow their goods. Yet these very men who are weighed down with their riches pass for Christ's followers. They have the name of believing that Christ is soon to come, that the end of all things is at hand; yet they have no spirit of sacrifice. They are plunging deeper and deeper into the world. They allow themselves but little time to study the word of life and to meditate and pray. Neither do they give others in their family, or those who serve them, this privilege. Yet these men profess to believe that this world is not their home, that they are merely pilgrims and strangers upon the earth, preparing to move to a better country. The example and influence of all such is a curse to the cause of God. Hollow hypocrisy characterizes their professed Christian lives. They love God and the truth just as much as their works show, and no more. A man will act out all the faith he has." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 662, 663.

4.b. What should always be foremost in our mind?

1 Corinthians 3:23; 6:20.

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**Note:** "Whether or not we give mind, soul, and strength to God, it all belongs to Him. God speaks to each human being, saying: 'I have a claim on you. Give me your zeal, your capabilities, your energy, your means.' He has a right to ask this; for we are His, redeemed by His boundless love and by the agony of the cross of Calvary from the service of sin." *The Signs of the Times*, January 2, 1901.

**Thursday**

**5 PREPARING FOR THE LATTER RAIN**

5.a. What realization should awaken each one to action?

2 Corinthians 6:2; Matthew 10:7.

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**Note:** "We need greater earnestness in the cause of Christ. The solemn message of truth should be given with an intensity that would impress unbelievers that God is working with our efforts, that the Most High is our living source of strength. ...

"Is this indifference to continue from year to year? Is Satan always to triumph, and Christ to be disappointed in the servants whom He has redeemed at an infinite price? We are looking forward to the time when the latter rain will be poured out, confidently hoping for a better day, when the church shall be endued with power from on high, and thus fitted to do more efficient work for God. But the latter rain will never refresh and invigorate indolent souls that are not using the power God has already given them. Spiritual laziness will not bring us nearer to God. There must be energy and zeal as well as devotion and personal piety, woven into all our works." *The Signs of the Times*, December 9, 1886.

5.b. What is God's call for us today? Isaiah 60:1, 2; Matthew 5:14-16.

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**Note:** "A working church is a living church. Church members, let the light shine forth. Let your voices be heard in humble prayer, in witness against the intemperance, the folly, and the amusements of this world, and in the proclamation of the truth for this time. Your voice, your influence, your time—all these are gifts from God, and are to be used in winning souls to Christ. Visit your neighbors, and show an interest in the salvation of their souls. Arouse every spiritual energy to action. Tell those whom you visit that the end of all things is at hand." *Medical Ministry*, 332.

**Friday**

**PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- 1 Why is time so valuable?
- 2 What common trap may be preventing us from laboring for Christ?
- 3 What tendency could be stagnating us in a Laodicean condition?
- 4 What should give us incentive to labor for Christ?
- 5 Why will many miss out on receiving the latter rain?

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Steps to Life has developed three sets of Bible studies which we offer for personal study and for sharing one on one or in a group setting:



## ORIGINAL STEPS TO LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

The original Steps to Life studies were developed by Marshall Grosboll to encourage folks to get involved with giving Bible studies. This set of 34 lessons takes a person step by step through points of faith and doctrine in God's Word. Available in English, Spanish, or French. The instructor's manual, available in English or Spanish, includes two sets of studies and the answer key, along with basic instructions in a three-ring binder.

STL Studies (per set of 34 lessons) ..... \$2.00  
 Answer key ..... \$1.50  
 Instructor's Manual..... \$12.95



## KNOW YOUR BIBLE STUDY GUIDES

Know Your Bible study guides are similar in content to the above studies, just in an expanded format. These are used in our Bible Correspondence School.

KYB Studies (per set) ..... \$4.00  
 Answer key ..... \$1.50



## PROPHECY SERIES STUDIES

Our Prophecy Series studies are based on a prophecy series given by Pastor John Grosboll. This 52-part series will take the student through the major points of the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation. Also available in Spanish.

PS Studies (per set) ..... \$5.00  
 Answer key ..... \$1.50



To order, call:

1-800-843-8788

Shipping and handling will be added to all orders.





# The Humble Date

**T**he fruit of the date palm tree, the date, is believed to have originated somewhere around the Persian Gulf. It is considered one of the oldest cultivated fruits and is part of the staple diet in Middle Eastern countries. When ripe, they are brown and shriveled, resembling a prune. There are several varieties of dates categorized into three groups based on their sugar content – soft, semi-dry and dried.

Consumed in both fresh and dried form, they are sweet with a rich, deep flavor and slightly chewy texture. They can be chopped, candied, stuffed and added to various recipes and even used as a substitute for refined sugar. Besides their rich taste, they are a powerhouse of

nutrition that can boost your energy and have a number of health benefits. Here are just a few:

1. Dates are high in iron making them the perfect home remedy for iron deficiency (anemia).
2. Dates contain potassium and are a natural laxative, so they can help with both constipation and diarrhea.
3. Dates contain fluorine which inhibits tooth decay by removing plaque and strengthening tooth enamel.
4. Dates contain organic sulphur which reduces allergic reactions and seasonal allergies.

There are several varieties of dates. The Medjool (Morocco), Barhi and

Halawy (Iraq), Hayani (Egypt) and Iteema (Algeria) to name a few.

Source: *18 Benefits of Date Fruit and Its Nutritional Value by Vineetha in Fruits healthbeacon.com*



Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## DATE “BON BONNS”

**Simmer together until soft, then cool:**

- 2 cups chopped dates
- ½ cup orange juice

**Put in a large bowl and add:**

- 1 cup walnuts, chopped fine
- 1 ½ cups unsweetened, shredded coconut
- ½ tsp. vanilla

Mix well and roll in unsweetened, shredded coconut. Refrigerate.



Change Service Requested

## *Health Benefits of Dates*

- *Very nutritious in minerals*
- *High in antioxidants*
- *High in fiber*
- *May promote brain health*
- *Excellent natural sweetener*

[www.healthline.com/nutrition/benefits-of-dates#TOC\\_](http://www.healthline.com/nutrition/benefits-of-dates#TOC_)  
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